

Thoughts on Faith and Judgement

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This document has been a work in progress. I have been born-again and have done my own Bible study to be taught and be corrected by the word of God, and I'm feeling confident with what I have written here, if I have said anything in error I pray that it would be corrected. I'm trying to speak the truth in mercy. This document shows my current understanding at the time of writing. God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Jehovah God, Lord Jesus Christ, please forgive me if I have spoken anything incorrectly and have mercy on me:

I Timothy 4:13-16 - Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. (ESV)

In trusting Jesus and His words, we are led by Him. And it's **very** important that we are not led astray by a different voice, so we should be corrected and goaded and guided by Jesus. With soft hearts we should trust and obey Jesus' voice:

John 10:4-5 - When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. (ESV)

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (ESV)

John 10:25-26 - Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. (ESV)

John 3:3 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (ESV)

youtube.com: Not Luther or Calvin, but Jesus {@ligonier} The thing I want to get across to you is this, that unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Now, let me just stop for a minute. That's not Billy Graham and it's not RC Sproul and it's not some television evangelist making that declaration. It is not Augustine. It's not Aquinas. It's not Athanasius. It's not Luther. It's not Calvin. It's not Edwards. It is Jesus, the founder of the Christian faith, who is now making a statement that calls attention to something that is necessary for every human being.

Loving God and one another is our duty:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

Luke 17:10 - So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty. (ESV)

We must continue in faith in Jesus, in His word. These Jews had believed in Jesus but they needed to become free from sin, and Jesus promised that if they abide in His word then they are **truly** His disciples, and will come to know the truth and be set free from sin. Jesus lets these "believers" in him know that if they were "of God" then they would "love" him. We have to hear, receive, believe and treasure Jesus Christ and His words:

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

John the Baptist's call of repentance, to repent, turn from sin, forsake sin and to love our neighbour the way we are commanded to is still for Christians to heed and do. And the wrath to come is still on its way for those who reject Jesus. But how do we accept Jesus? By doing what Abraham did. By faith we must obey Jesus Christ. We must keep Jesus' commandments:

Luke 3:4-14 - As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. And the crowds asked him, What then shall we do? And he answered them, Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise. Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, Teacher, what shall we do? And he said to them, Collect no more than you are authorized to do. Soldiers also asked him, And we, what shall we do? And he said to them, Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages. (ESV)

Ezekiel 33:31-32 - So My people come to you as usual, sit before you, and hear your words; but they do not put them into practice. Although they express love with their mouths, their hearts pursue dishonest gain. Indeed, you are to them like a singer of love songs with a beautiful voice, who skillfully plays an instrument. They hear your words but do not put them into practice. (engbsb2020eb)

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

Thanks to Jesus condemning sin in the flesh, now for those who live according to the Spirit (trusting, treasuring and obeying God, His Word, Jesus Christ, Jesus' teachings in reality in the heart) setting their minds on the Spirit, we can fulfill the requirement of the law, having the law-fulfilling love of God in us that does not want to harm our neighbour (**Romans 13:8-10**), that loves agape (from the heart) the children of God in the way that God commands us to (**I John 5:1-2**), the way that is keeping Jesus' commandments (**Ezekiel 33:31-32**), and keeping Jesus' commandments is what it means to love Jesus (**John 14:21**), and we should use our freedom to serve one another:

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

I John 5:1-2 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

Galatians 5:13-14 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.** For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 logō): **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** (ESV)

Ezekiel 33:31-32 - So My people come to you as usual, sit before you, and hear your words; but they do not put them into practice. Although they express love with their mouths, their hearts pursue dishonest gain. Indeed, you are to them like a singer of love songs with a beautiful voice, who skillfully plays an instrument. They hear your words but do not put them into practice. (engbsb2020eb)

G1247 diakoneó: To serve, to minister, to attend to 1. to be an attendant, to wait upon (menially or as a host, friend) 2. (figuratively) to serve as a teacher 3. (technically) to act as a Christian steward (deacon)

Matthew 20:25-28 - But Jesus called them to him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served (G1247 diakonēthēnai: To serve, to minister, to attend to) but to serve (G1247 diakonēsai: To serve, to minister, to attend to), and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves (G1398 douleuó: To serve, to be a slave to, to be in bondage) Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

So while Jesus has served us we still serve Jesus, serving His family:

Matthew 25:40 - And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2-6 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)

Jesus is the manifest love of God:

I John 4:9-10 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

So we must believe what He says and have the love of God in us! And we must believe in Him and what God has done in sending Him into the world! We must believe God and trust God, and keep believing and trusting God:

John 5:37-42 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But **I know that you do not have the love of God within you.** (ESV)

John 3:16 (Interlinear) Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó - value, treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs - unique, only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina - in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

I John 4:9-12 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

youtube.com: No, God doesn't "allow it" {@leemalaulau} @time: 1 min 38 sec May that not be true of us today. If it steals, kills or destroys, it's not from your good father. He only brings life. Here's the thing, in order for love to be real it has to be free and unconditional.

That's why free will exists. God didn't create robots. He created humans with the ability to choose. Why? Because love without choice isn't love at all. Love that is forced is what we would call tyranny or rape. Love that has to be bought is what we would call prostitution. And love that has to be earned is now no longer a free gift to receive, it's now a wage that I must work for.

And none of these are agape. Agape love, however, God's love is free and unconditional. And for love to be real it must be freely given with no strings attached.

But freedom means risk. It means the freedom to make bad choices, to reject love or to walk away all together. And God in His love does not control us, He invites us. Influence has to be invited, not imposed, and he gives us the freedom to choose Him or to not choose Him because anything less wouldn't be love at all.

G25 agapáō [Agapé love] focuses on value-driven (a decision-based) love – which of course does not exclude affection! (quote)

God has done a thing for us freely, that is giving Jesus Christ and that is how God demonstrates His agape (treasuring, valuing) love for us (**Romans 5:7-8**). The sacrifice was made before the offer was received by us. God does not want people to perish (**Ezekiel 18:20-24, II Peter 3:9-13**). Therefore it was a completely unconditional act of love on God's part.

God has made the "first move":

I John 4:8-10 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

In God's unconditional love He has paid the price for us to be saved from sin and death and hell:

John 3:16 (Interlinear) Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó - value, treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs - unique, only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina - in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

I John 4:9-12 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

The fact that God has agape loved us first doesn't make void the commandment that we must love God and one another, but rather sets the context. God loved us first:

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (ESV)

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.** (ESV)

But we have free will and still need to receive the salvation, and that's why there is still a conditional aspect to this. God, through His word and in sending Jesus (God's Word made flesh) has instructed us in receiving the salvation He has bought:

II Timothy 3:14-15 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Jesus is patient with us as we are saved.

II Peter 3:15 - And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, (ESV)

Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain:

I Corinthians 15:53-58 - For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

Hebrews 6:9-12 - Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (ESV)

Watch youtube.com: Work Out What Christ Has Won: The Christian Life as Gift and Duty

Philippians 2:12-16 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Salvific, sanctifying faith in Jesus and in the blood of Jesus continues. It's not just a single-moment thing:

youtube.com: Robert Henderson | 6. Courts of Heaven {@VictoryChristianCentre} @time: 10 min 26 sec
I use the blood to silence the voice [of the accuser]. Of course that's Hebrews 12:24:

Hebrews 12:24 - and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (ESV)

Now let me just show you one scripture.

Why it's important to repent:

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

It literally says **keeps on** cleansing us from all sin.

That's actually the verbiage - it keeps on cleansing us. Why? Because the blood is 'not that which was spoke, it is that which is speaking'.

That's what it said.

There is a blood that *speaks* better things.

The blood isn't something that was spoke about you.

The blood is **speaking** concerning you.

So watch, it says that the blood keeps on cleansing us from all sin, but only when we walk in the light as he is in the light.

What does that mean?

That means I come out of darkness into the light.

That means I have to repent.

Repentance is coming out of darkness and into light.

So you cannot get the benefits of the blood, you cannot agree with what the blood is saying about you unless you come out of darkness and into light.

It makes sense to me that anything that opposes the sanctification of those who God wants to be sanctified is not from God. Anything that opposes God's will is not from God:

I Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

Jesus Christ's blood cleanses us from **all** sin as we walk in the light. We must be walking in the love of the truth:

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Faith in the blood of Jesus looks like by faith obeying Jesus Christ as Abraham did (**Hebrews 11:8**):

- Trusting that Jesus Christ's propitiation for sin is available to wash away one's sin. This is available even after we have first come to faith
 - **I John 4:9-10** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)
 - **Romans 3:21-31** - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness,

because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

- **I John 2:1-6** - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. **But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.** And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
- **John 13:7-11** - Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. **Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!** Jesus said to him, **The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean.** And you are clean, but not every one of you. For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, Not all of you are clean. (ESV)

- Believing what is said by Jesus' Apostles regarding sanctification and doing the will of God:
 - That we are sanctified by faith (actively trusting in, hoping in) in Jesus Christ
 - * **Acts 26:18** - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)
 - That we are sanctified by obedience to the Truth for a sincere love of our family in Christ
 - * **I Peter 1:22** - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)
 - * **I John 5:1-2** - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)
 - * God has described what this love looks like in several places
 - **Colossians 3:8-10** - But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (ESV)
 - **Galatians 6:2-6** - **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)
 - **Romans 13:10** - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)
 - **Mark 10:17-21** - And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, **You lack one thing: go, sell**

all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

- **John 15:9-14** - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)
- Agape love is **definitely** valuing, treasuring, preserving

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

To be saved, we must trust in what is true, we must agape love the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:9-12 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (ESV)

Luke 8:12 - The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (ESV)

Trusting in Jesus Christ, we should be abiding in His teachings, including His commandments.

Abraham just obeyed God, trusting God. And so should we. God sees what's in our heart. We focus on trusting and obeying God's commandments from the heart. We walk by faith and not by sight (**II Corinthians 5:6-7**). Not focusing on the visible exterior results of our obedience, but simply by faith obeying Jesus Christ sincerely from the heart:

Hebrews 11:8 (Interlinear) By faith being called Abraham obeyed to go out into a place that he was going to receive for an inheritance and went out not knowing where he is going

1 G4102 G2564 G11 G5219 G1831 G1519
2 Pistei kaloumenos Abraam hypēkousen exelthein eis
3 Πιστεῖ καλουμένος Ἀβραὰμ ὑπῆκουσεν ἐξελθεῖν εἰς
4 By faith being called Abraham obeyed to go out into
5 N-DFS V-PPM/P-NMS N-NMS V-AIA-3S V-ANA Prep
6
7 G5117 G3739 G3195 G2983 G1519 G2817
8 topon hon ēmellen lambanein eis klēronomian
9 ,
10 a place that he was going to receive for an inheritance
11 N-AMS RelPro-AMS V-IIA-3S V-PNA Prep N-AFS
12
13 G2532 G1831 G3361 G1987 G4226 G2064
14 kai exēlthen mē epistamenos pou erchetai
15 , .
16 and went out not knowing where he is going
17 Conj V-AIA-3S Adv V-PPM/P-NMS Adv V-PIM/P-3S

II Corinthians 4:18 - as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:39-40 - And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. (ESV)

Those in the kingdom of God hold faith in Jesus and serve Jesus:

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but **whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected**. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

And we keep ourselves in the love of God. We continue to keep believing that God has loved us in sending Jesus Christ (**I John 4:6-19**), and at the same time agape loving one another (**I John 3:21-24**) in the way He both demonstrated and commanded:

Jude 1:18-21 - They said to you, In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions. It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God (G26 agapē: [the] love) (G2316 Theou: of God), waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

Being 'philos with (friends with, allured by, attracted to)', money , self, pleasure, rather than ((G3123 mallon: rather [Adv])) being allured by God (wanting to be around God) is bad. But we should avoid those who are attracted to such things rather than/instead of God. We want to be attracted to God, and certainly must be attracted to God moreso than by pleasure, money, self, etc. And we are instructed to avoid such people who are drawn to such things in preference to God. We are to avoid enemies of God:

II Timothy 3:1-5 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self (G5367 philautoi: lovers of self [Adj-NMP]), lovers of money (G5366 philargyroi: lovers of money [Adj-NMP]), proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good (G865 aphilagathoi: without love of good [Adj-NMP]), treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure (G5369 philēdonoi: lovers of pleasure [Adj-NMP]) rather than (G3123 mallon: rather [Adv]) lovers of God (G5377 philotheoi: lovers of God [Adj-NMP]), having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (ESV)

James 4:4 - You *adulterous* people! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

I John 4:16 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

John 15:9-10 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

And we serve in the strength that God provides. If we find ourselves in a position to demonstrate serving others out of love, and the Scriptures have a lot to say about what that love looks like (such as in the 10 commandments. See **Romans 13:9-10**), then we should do so and give God the glory:

I Peter 4:11 - whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

I Peter 4:12-19 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

All of us have a duty to keep God's commandments for us, (notably Christ's commandments). The strong [of faith, of obedience, at keeping God's commandments] are obligated to bear with the failings of those who are weak [of faith, of obedience, at keeping God's commandments]. So we should be supporting one another to live in a way that is pleasing to God:

Romans 15:1-4 - We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me. For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (ESV)

Colossians 3:13-14 - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)

Romans 13:8-10 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Good works are works that are done in genuine faith, in the agape love of the truth, the trust of the truth, in the heart. Love is not strictly the works, but is from the heart. And the love we have is a love of the truth, not a love of sin:

I Corinthians 13:1-8 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but **rejoices with the truth.** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:5-11 - Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end (G5056 *telē*) of the ages has come. (ESV)

The word "telē" in I Cor 10:11 is the plural of "telos" which is used in Romans 10:4. It doesn't mean "abolishment". It's more like "culmination", "goal, or "full maturity", or the "final stage", or the "ultimate purpose" and that if a person has arrived at faith in Jesus then they have arrived at the destination where the Mosaic Law was a "schoolmaster" to get us to. Now even if the coming faith was not yet "revealed", if someone were to have pursued the Mosaic Law by genuine fear of God, love of God, trust of God, hope in God, faith in the heart (rather than the exterior works) then that would still be commendable. But if a person rejects Jesus (say if they reject Him as King, or as Christ, if they don't submit to God's righteousness) then it simply shows that they do not have true faith in God, that they do not do what Abraham did, they do not have the love of God, the love of the Truth in them:

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end (G5056 *telos*) of the law (G3551 *nomos*) for righteousness (G1343 *dikaiosune*) to everyone who believes (G4100 *pisteuo*, trusts). (ESV)

Galatians 3:22-27 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (ESV)

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 *pepisteukotas*: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

Luke 16:29-31 - But Abraham said, They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them. And he said, No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent. He said to him, If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead. (ESV)

But if a person rejects Jesus (say if they reject Him as King, or as Christ, if they don't submit to God's righteousness) then it simply shows that they do not have true faith in God, that they do not do what Abraham did, they do not have the love of God, the love of the Truth in them:

Matthew 21:37-44 - Finally he sent his son to them, saying, They will respect my son. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance. And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants? They said to him, He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him. (ESV)

Jesus is the focal point.

youtube.com: John MacArthur | The Ben Shapiro Show Sunday Special Ep. 29 {@DailyWirePlus} @tim

I think what Jesus did in the Sermon on the Mount was elevate the teaching of the Rabbis. Elevate it. He went above them. He said, "You've been told you shouldn't commit adultery. I'm telling you, if you look at woman to lust after her you've committed adultery in your heart." He got to the heart of the Law. They were content with the practical application of the Law. He was not content with that. So I would say that Jesus was the purest Jew that ever lived because He understood the elevation of the Law to the heart and the soul... When you hear of even the people in His time saying, 'never a man spoke like this man...' He is a person that doesn't seem to have been a product of human invention... You cannot come to Jesus and just patronise Him as a noble, good, Jewish teacher because He crossed a line and the Jews saw that. Either He's the Messiah or He's a blasphemer... So when you ask me to show the variation between Judaism and Christianity, morally there's none. In terms of God, we don't have the same God as Muslims. Allah is not the same God as Jehovah... He (Jehovah) is the One, True Creator God, the One True Living God... We believe He is more than one Person in One God. That's why Genesis says, "Let us make man in Our own image." And relationship comes from a God who has relationship within Himself. But the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is what we do with Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews says 'If a sacrifice had been enough to atone for sin, they would've stopped making them.' But they never stopped... [morning and evening, morning and evening...] Basically, a priest was a butcher (he had blood up to his waist)... You come to the death of Jesus Christ and at the death of Christ, the veil of the Temple is rent from top to bottom. The Holy of Holies is thrown open. That's a statement from God because it couldn't have been ripped by men from the top down. The way to God is open. There's no more barriers because a suitable sacrifice has been found. This is The Lamb of God. And amazingly, soon after that the whole sacrificial system ends because that's the final sacrifice. And God validates that sacrifice by raising Him from the dead. The resurrection is a provable historical fact. So I think that's the issue, it's what do you do with Jesus. And God validates that sacrifice by raising Him from the dead. The resurrection is a provable historical fact. So I think that's the issue, it's what do you do with Jesus... This is Judaism's culmination, so I don't see Judaism and Christianity as antithetical. I see them as perfectly complimentary so that what the prophet said the Messiah would be, Jesus was. That fulfills it. The sacrificial system ends. It's never been reinstated again. The one sacrifice, the writer of Hebrews says, 'He perfected forever those who are sanctified by His one offering.' He was God's Lamb, a spotless lamb without blemish. God put on Him the sins of us all. This is a stunning theological truth because all the people who will ever believe through human history, their sins are covered by Christ, even those who believed going back to Adam. All of them had to have a sacrifice that paid for their sins, whether it happened before Christ (their belief), or after Christ. Christ is

the focal point. So, He bears in His body all the sins of all who would ever believe ((G4100 pisteuo: actively trusting/believing in Jesus Christ)) through human history.

I John 2:23 - No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (ESV)

The faith we must have is still law, but it's not a law of works:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.** Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

It's "by the 'works', specifically, of the law", the Mosaic Law, that no mere human being will be justified in God's sight and in Romans 3:20 Paul is referring to what came in through Moses to increase the trespass. Paul is not there referring to Jesus' commandments. All Jesus' commandments are grace and truth, spirit and life, and we should trust, hope in love and obey Jesus. It is by the law of faith in Jesus who has fulfilled the law, fulfilled it even by works, that we are justified. The law isn't overthrown / abolished. It is upheld. Jesus is the telos, the culmination of the law to those who have faith:

Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (ESV)

Romans 5:20 - Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, (ESV)

John 1:17-18 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (ESV)

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

John 5:26 - For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (ESV)

God let Abraham know He would bless him because he was obedient to His voice and didn't withhold his son (Abraham's faith was tested to show that he agape loved God first before even his only son):

Genesis 22:15-18 - And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, **because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you,** and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, **because you have obeyed my voice.** (ESV)

We are also tested as Christians, and the type of faith we ought to have is still modelled on Abraham's:

I Peter 1:6-9 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.** (ESV)

Revelation 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw **some of you** into prison, that you may be **tested**, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)

Resting from our works doesn't mean resting from love (which is in the heart) and it doesn't mean resting from obedience (which is in the heart), since we have to hold our faith in Jesus in a law-abiding way (that is loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbour as ourself). Without the law-abiding love, the type of faith one would be resting in would be an unlawful faith, a demonic faith:

Hebrews 4:8-10 - For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (ESV)

The peace Jesus gives is not "peace on Earth" with just anyone:

Matthew 10:32-38 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

It's peace between those who God is pleased with:

Luke 2:14 - Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! (ESV)

It's peace "in Christ" with each other and with God's Kingdom in heaven and earth:

Colossians 1:20 - and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (ESV)

It's peace with God for those who have faith in Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:23-25,5:1-2 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

It's peace for those who do good:

Romans 2:9-11 - There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

God trains us through discipline for holiness to behave righteously and the fruit of that yields peace:

Hebrews 12:10-11 - For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (ESV)

So in resting from our works, we remain ready and prepared to do good works opportunistically (as they are given to us, as keeping a good conscience with God would require them to be done). So the rest is resting with a faith that is still maintaining a genuine agape-love for God and for one's neighbour, especially their family in Christ. But so long as we are keeping Christ's law lawfully trusting in Him and loving one-another as He has commanded and demonstrated, we are permitted to rest and are not duty bound to perform tasks that are not within Christ's law.

Since God has prepared the good works for us to walk in, God is ultimately in control of dispensing these good works, as we receive them, walking in them faithfully, lovingly and obediently!

What resting from our works means is that maintaining our law-abiding obedience and good conscience with God takes priority over just doing things habitually or under constraint. It doesn't mean habitual or religious tasks are evil. It just means that we are allowed to rest in a law-abiding faith in Jesus, and that when religion tries to rob you of that rest, that's when religion is unhelpful.

Now, a law-abiding faith doesn't close their heart to a brother in need. A law-abiding faith is still ready and prepared to love our family in Christ in word and deed and truth. But like Paul says, if he has not love, such good works profit him nothing. The heart attitude of law-abiding love and the works that come from that heart are different things. So even when resting from one's works, we must retain the law-abiding love.

I Corinthians 13:2 - And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love (**26. agapé - treasuring, valuing love**), I am nothing. (ESV)

So when we do rest from our works, it would be either because we have exhausted our current supply of good works, or because doing them would be unlawful (i.e. would be not done in faith, or not done in love). For example, if doing some "good deed" would at the same time break the 2 Great Commandments, then it would be unlawful.

And it's absolutely fine to continue doing good as a Christian. So resting from our works is not about ceasing to do good, it's just about having faith in / trusting in Christ. Having put our faith in Christ, we enter His rest. We want to do that obediently, putting down idols, etc. ("Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience"). We must not misconstrue doing good and obeying God as opposing the cross of Christ. But it's perfectly fine to work out (perform) our salvation, taking every thought captive for obedience to Christ, and arrive at the point where it's not burdensome to keep Christ's commandments:

Luke 6:9-10 - And Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? And after looking around at them all he said to him, Stretch out your hand. And he did so, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:3 - For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest, although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:8-10 - For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (ESV)

We enter God's rest **while** we are believing in Christ. The day is today. Every day is the Sabbath:

Hebrews 4:7-12 - again he appoints a **certain day, Today**, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath

rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. **Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (ESV)

Abiding by Christ's law (Christ's commandments), which is a law of faith (we're not under the curse of the law of Moses) and is not a law of works (**Romans 3:21-31**), is not being under a curse, but, rather is being under grace:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

When contrasting being "under law" to being "under grace", Paul is talking about people who "rely" on the "works" (the exterior stuff) of the law, the Mosaic Law (which came in after Abraham), who are under law. But the law of Christ which we are 'under' (abide in) is a different type of law, and the kind of law that it is is a law of faith. It's about the heart. And like Abraham, we should believe in, trust in, trust, agape love and obey Jesus. And just like Abraham's faith, our faith may be tested and a person may be justified by works, like Abraham's faith and that wasn't "works of the law of Moses" which came in later (to increase the trespass). But we don't "rely" on the justification by works of faith in Jesus, though that type of thing may happen.

Abraham was tested to see if He had the fear of God in Him. Our faith must be like that. When we talk about "justification by works", it has to be on the basis of faith, on the basis of what's in the heart (in this case, the fear of God), rather than the external deed, otherwise it's no longer grace, but the exterior deed is an indicator of what is going on inside:

Genesis 22:12 - He said, Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me. (ESV)

This man thought it was some good deed he had to do. Jesus tells him to keep the commandments (stop doing evil from the heart) and follow Him (Jesus). But the man clearly coveted His possessions too much:

Matthew 19:16-26 - And behold, a man came up to him, saying, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The young man said to him, All these I have kept. What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

This makes it quite clear that we must be law-abiding:

Matthew 13:38-42 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

Fear of God and hoping in God's steadfast love are strongly associated. Hoping in God's steadfast love and having the fear of God (wanting to please God, not wanting to sin against God), are strongly linked together. And because the faith we have is one which loves the truth of God, having the fear of God and having a love for the truth and a hatred of evil are all strongly linked together:

Psalms 33:18-19 - Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. (ESV)

The Mosaic law (exterior action this, exterior action this, exterior action this) and you'll live is not of faith. But the law can be pursued by faith, even obediently. How do you pursue the law by faith? Do what Abraham did (**John 8:31-47**). By **faith** Abraham obeyed. It wasn't merely the external deeds but that the deeds were done in faith and it's the faith that's essential. It's what's going on in the heart that is essential. It's a here and now heart attitude thing, a justified by grace through faith thing. Faith, hope, love and obedience are all heart attitudes.

Romans 10:4-11 - For Christ is the end (G5056 telos) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you **will be saved**. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

Matthew 23:26-28 - You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (ESV)

If we're acceptable to Jesus, abiding in Jesus' commandments then we are acceptable to Father God. Jesus is our High Priest. Holy Spirit is our Advocate:

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

Have the love of God in you, the love of the Truth, the faith that loves and receives the truth: (**John 5:37-42**). Believing, trusting, hoping in God with the fear of God. God sees the heart:

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

"The one having completed all of these external deeds will live" is probably an accurate way to understand "the one who does them shall live by them", as if their entire future is dependent on the completion of all of these external tasks.

If God's commandments for us were merely about the external deeds then couldn't you just delegate someone else to do all of these 'tasks'? Or even more absurd, delegate them to a robot? No because God's commandments are not merely about external works. God wants **your** heart to be sanctified:

Matthew 5:28 - But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has **already committed adultery with her in his heart**.

Being a "doer" of the Law is different. And "doing" is whether or not there is faith, love, obedience, fear of God, trust, hope in God in the heart. It's not the "works" that come out of that. Should we perform deeds in keeping with repentance? Yes. But we're not sanctified by the deeds. But we are sanctified through the faith and the obedience!:

Galatians 3:10-13 - For all who rely on works (G2041 ergōn: works, deed, action, task, labor) of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them (G4160. poieó To make, to do, to act, to cause, to work) shall live by them. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree— (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified**. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Judging the law is not the same thing as doing it:

James 4:11 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. (ESV)

God looks at the heart:

II Corinthians 5:10-12 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commanding ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

John 2:23-25 - Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. (ESV)

Psalms 139:23 - Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! (ESV)

Love and good works once again means that love is not strictly the works:

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)

I'm not judging people until the Lord Jesus Christ does (**I Corinthians 6:1-20**). There comes a day when God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus and when we are judged by Jesus Christ (**I Corinthians 11:32**) He disciplines us in advance that we may not be condemned with the world (**I Corinthians 11:32**).

Job 5:17-18 - Blessed indeed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He wounds, but He also binds; He strikes, but His hands also heal. (engbsb2020eb)

I Corinthians 6:1-4 - When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? (ESV)

Deuteronomy 8:5-6 - Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. (ESV)

I believe I've personally been going through this discipline after getting born-again.

There is a "last day" and we want to have put our faith in Jesus before the last day. But right now, not later, is the right time to put our faith in Jesus:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?** So we see that **they were unable to enter because of unbelief**. (ESV)

John 3:18 - He who believes (G4100 pisteuo) in Him is not judged; he who does not believe (G4100 pisteuo) has been judged (G2919 krino) already (G2235 ede), because he has not believed (G4100 pisteuo) in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NASB)

Acts 17:30-31 - The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (ESV)

So I hope this testimony can be an extra warning for people that they may come to the obedience of faith in Christ Jesus with a sincere agape love for God and their family in Christ. Lord Jesus Christ, come:

I Corinthians 4:5 - Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. (ESV)

It's the '**seeking' to**, the '**intention' to** (rather than the visible results that we might see) to do what pleases God, the *desire* to please God, the agape loving of the light in the heart that is key. What I mean is that it's about whether or not the person's heart is right. And if the heart is right then the law is "being done":

Romans 2:5-11 - But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

So let's imagine Peter just looking at Jesus on the sea and by faith obeying Jesus to come to him, but Peter not even being aware that he is standing on water because he's so fixated on Jesus. That's how it should be with us where we "do not let our left hand know what our right hand is doing", where we don't focus on the visible results, but rather we focus on by faith obeying Jesus. Just by faith obey Jesus and focus on Jesus. Come to Jesus. As soon as Peter took his eyes off Jesus and onto the wind (maybe focusing on the results, such as, if he is floating, rather than on Jesus), rather than by faith obeying Jesus, he started sinking:

Matthew 14:28-29 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. (ESV)

To inherit the Kingdom, we must be sanctified (**I Corinthians 6:9-12**), and that sanctification involves exercising Christ's love. The righteous here are shown to be "doers" of the law in the heart and that they don't recall when they "[physically] saw Jesus hungry and fed him, thirsty and give him drink", but Jesus says they did, so they must have. This shows that they were not justifying themselves, but rather that God noticed that they were doers of his will and He commended them. They must have simply been led by the Spirit, practicing their righteousness, loving the Truth, (perhaps giving alms out of obeying Jesus by faith), and they served Jesus perhaps without knowing it, but God noticed. This person innocently asks, "When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?" They would've been doing Christ's commandments, though, by faith obeying from the heart. And so it's not the exterior success which a person might see themselves, but God sees the heart and God also sees the outcome of the faithful obedience and the impact it has on others. The truly obedient person (God sees the heart and sees everything) might even not be sure of when they did these specific things for Jesus. But God sees.

Just be obeying Jesus by faith sincerely from the heart and walk by faith and not sight, not focusing on the visible results, but rather seeking to please God who seeks your heart and intentions:

Matthew 25:33-37 - And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? (ESV)

God can see what we're actually thinking and cares about the intentions of our heart, and He wants us to seek Him:

G1963 epinoia attention of the mind, i.e. (by implication) purpose:-thought.

I Chronicles 28:9 - And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. (ESV)

Acts 8:22 - Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. (ESV)

Jesus is the Word of God, and God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus:

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (ESV)

John 1:14 - And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

Romans 2:16 - on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:12 - And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: **The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.** (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:13 - each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. (ESV)

Genesis 6:5 - The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** (ESV)

God wants our actions to be done with the right attitudes:

Romans 12:8 - the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (ESV)

Therefore, we should be obedient from the heart to Christ:

II Corinthians 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (ESV)

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

It's real truth-trusting, truth-loving faith in the heart which God commends. And a Christian's obedience to God is "from the heart". We should be trusting in Jesus Christ, hoping in Him for Him to save us while also purifying ourselves as He is pure:

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified.** For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 6:17-17 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

We are trusting God when we Trust His words:

Psalms 18:30 - This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. (ESV)

Proverbs 30:5-6 - Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and prove you a liar. (engbsb2020eb)

Psalms 84:11 - For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (ESV)

Those who serve God love His Word:

Psalms 119:140 - Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

Loving, trusting in, hoping in the truth (God, God's Word) and having the fear of God, hating evil, not wanting to sin against God are strongly associated:

Psalms 147:11 - but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. (ESV)

Fear of God and hoping in God's steadfast love are strongly associated. Hoping in God's steadfast love and having the fear of God (wanting to please God, not wanting to sin against God), are strongly linked together. And because the faith we have is one which loves the truth of God, having the fear of God and having a love for the truth and a hatred of evil are all strongly linked together:

Psalms 33:18-19 - Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. (ESV)

With some amount of fear of God a person would have some compunction about sinning against God; A person with the fear of God is adverse to sinning against God and so repentance from sin goes hand in hand with the fear of God:

Genesis 20:11 - Abraham said, I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and **by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.** (ESV)

Ultimately, when we sin, we sin against God and we ultimately needed God to have loved us first in sending Jesus Christ while we were all still sinners in order that we might be cleansed from our sin as without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin:

Psalms 51:1-4 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:22 - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

Given Proverbs 16:6 which says that "steadfast love and faithfulness atones for iniquity" and Jesus saying that "greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends" and Him saying "You are my friends if you do what I command you" I believe that as Jesus was walking in love and faithfulness, perfectly obedient to Father God, Jesus' blood atones for the sins of those who abide in His commandments:

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

We are absolutely supposed to be not committing sin. But if we **do** sin then we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ. That propitiation for sin is available to all people to be received through faith in Jesus Christ:

I John 2:1-6 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

There is a righteousness that we can have through faith (imputed righteousness) and there is propitiation for sin that we might commit even after coming to faith:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

We are sanctified through faith and obedience to Jesus Christ:

Faith in the blood of Jesus looks like by faith obeying Jesus Christ as Abraham did (**Hebrews 11:8**):

- Trusting that Jesus Christ's propitiation for sin is available to wash away one's sin. This is available even after we have first come to faith

– **I John 4:9-10** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

– **Romans 3:21-31** - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

- **I John 2:1-6** - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. **But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.** He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
- **John 13:7-11** - Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. **Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.** Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! Jesus said to him, The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you. For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, Not all of you are clean. (ESV)
- Believing what is said by Jesus' Apostles regarding sanctification and doing the will of God:
 - That we are sanctified by faith (actively trusting in, hoping in) in Jesus Christ
 - * **Acts 26:18** - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)
 - That we are sanctified by obedience to the Truth for a sincere love of our family in Christ
 - * **I Peter 1:22** - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)
 - * **I John 5:1-2** - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)
 - * God has described what this love looks like in several places
 - **Colossians 3:8-10** - But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (ESV)
 - **Galatians 6:2-6** - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)
 - **Romans 13:10** - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)
 - **Mark 10:17-21** - And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, **You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.**
 - **John 15:9-14** - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy**

may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

- Agape love is **definitely** valuing, treasuring, preserving

Jesus' sacrifice was done once for all (but we still need to receive it through faith in Jesus Christ):

Hebrews 9:24-28 - For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:5-14 - Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book. When he said above, You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings (these are offered according to the law), then he added, Behold, I have come to do your will. He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

We must trust in Jesus and not in this world:

I Corinthians 7:24-31 - So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short.** From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

So we should repent and come to love and trust (treasure and trust in, cling/cleave/adhere to and hope in) God and hate (forsake and distrust) sin and desire God in our minds and hearts and trust in, cling/cleave/adhere to God's promises, and **keep** doing that so that we are counted with the wheat and not the tares and go to the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells (we want the good future):

II Peter 3:9-13 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (ESV)

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (ESV)

The true fear of God and true faith/trust in God go hand in hand, and so true faith and the hatred of evil are also strongly associated, and impossible to have apart from one another. And repentance needs the fear of God:

Job 4:6 - Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope? (ESV)

Hebrews 3:14 - For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (ESV)

Exodus 14:31 - Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. (ESV)

With the fear of God we should hate evil. Even as concerns the gospel, we should be repentant, seeking God's mercy:

Luke 23:40 - But the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (ESV)

Psalms 36:1-4 - Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes. To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the LORD. For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good. He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil. (ESV)

Psalms 115:11 literally reads "Those who fear Yahweh trust in Yahweh", but I notice that Bible translators have translated this as "Those who fear Yahweh, trust in Yahweh" as if to tell those who fear Him to additionally trust in Him. But the correct interpretation might actually say (and I lean toward this interpretation) that those who fear Yahweh are trusting Yahweh as if they go hand-in hand, and that if a person has the reverent fear of God then they have the trusting faith. Just like **Hebrews 11:7** says with Noah:

Psalms 115:11 You who fear Yahweh trust in Yahweh their help and their shield He [is] (Interlinear)

1	3373	3068	982	3068
2	yir·'ê	Yah·weh	bit·hū	Yah·weh;
3			-	
4	You who fear Yahweh	trust	in Yahweh	
5	Adj-mpc	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Imp-mp	Prep-b N-proper-ms
6				
7	5828	4043	1931	
8	'ez·rām	ū·mā·gīn·nām	hū.	
9		.		
10	their help	and their shield	He [is]	
11	N-msc 3mp	Conj-w N-csc 3mp	Pro-3ms	

Nehemiah 7:2 - I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a **more faithful and God-fearing** man than many. (ESV)

So in the fear of God we should serve Him, keeping Jesus Christ's commandments faithfully with all our heart:

I Samuel 12:24 - Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. (ESV)

II Chronicles 19:9 - And he charged them: **Thus you shall do in the fear of the LORD, in faithfulness, and with your whole heart:** (ESV)

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (ESV)

Abraham trusted God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Romans 4:20-25). And Abraham's works were not "works of the law" (Galatians 3:17), but were works of faith (Hebrews 11:8):

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

We can have and should have a faith that loves the truth, loves Jesus, even if we haven't seen Him yet. We need to prefer Jesus to sin. God will reward us with Himself. We must not keep on sinning in order to come to see Him and know Him. But Jesus knows His sheep, those who trust in Him and love Him, who prefer Him rather than prefer sin. So we kinda "gravitate" (in a sanctifying way) towards Jesus who we hold faith in and love, who's voice we trust:

I Peter 1:8-11 - Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time (G2540 kairós, appointed time) the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent (G3326 meta, contingent) glories. (ESV)

Psalms 37:4 - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (ESV)

I John 3:1-11 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

"Kairós" is qualitative (i.e. a special occasion) and "xrónos" is quantitative (i.e. a length of time):

Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness (G4138 plérōma) of time (G5550 chronou, xrónos, duration) had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (ESV)

G2540 kairós time as opportunity. 2540 /kairós ("opportune time") is derived from kara ("head") referring to things "coming to a head" to take full-advantage of.

G5550 xrónos time (in general), especially viewed in sequence (a "succession of moments"); time in duration in the physical-space world, sovereignly apportioned by God to each person.

In the ESV translation of I Peter 1:11, the word 'subsequent' represents the Greek word 'meta' (G3326 meta, contingent), but I think that an English translation would better translate 'meta' as "contingent" because that opens up to the reader the potential to be understood in a quantitatively chronological timelessness way as 'kairós' is also chronologically quantitatively neither here nor there. So in the original text, I think the Greek word 'meta' fits well alongside the word 'kairós'. It's not 'xrónos' which is in I Peter 1:11, but 'kairós' and so it's talking about the opportune moment in a qualitative way. The issue, I think, with using 'subsequent' is that it introduces into the text subliminally an idea that God had to "wait" for the "xrónos" time in order to commend the righteousness that is by faith, but that's evidently not true, and also in the very same verse, I Peter 1:11, it says there in the text that the Spirit of Christ was in them.

Even with regards the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, God's mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation:

Exodus 1:17 - But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. (ESV)

Exodus 1:21 - And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. (ESV)

God's mercy is for those with the fear of God, the repentant, those who hope in Him and do not want sin against Him:

Psalms 25:14 - The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. (ESV)

Psalms 33:18-19 - Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. (ESV)

Luke 1:50 - And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. (ESV)

We're not justified through the **works** of the law but we are through faith, and faith involves obedience to Jesus Christ. Being a "doer" of the law of Christ is whether or not a person's *heart* is right and "doing works of the Law" is different to being a "doer" of the Law:

Galatians 2:15-16 - "We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified."

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified**. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Interestingly, James believes that a person is justified not by faith alone, but by works of faith (I Thessalonians 1:3), and the justification by faith 'alone' is fulfilled when they are justified by works.

So which comes first? Justification by faith or justification by working faith? Abraham's duty was simply to fear God and keep His commandments. The book of Genesis was written later. Abraham believed (trusted) God and obeyed Him. That's what we should do too and leave the doing of the justifying to God. Even though we believe that God commends faith, we don't commend ourselves for that faith.

As evidence we do not commend ourselves, but rather that God sees our hearts and commends us, take Matthew 25:31-40 where the righteous question when they "did what was required of them" and "saw Jesus and welcomed him", for instance. Now somebody who makes a claim such as "I have faith in the blood of Jesus" or "I have faith in Jesus" might make that claim without God's commendation:

Matthew 25:31-40 - When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

It's our duty to have faith in God (I John 3:21-24). Our faith should be modelled on Abraham's. Abraham had not read the book of Genesis, nor the letter of James, nor the letters of Paul:

James 2:21-24 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with (4903. sunergeó) his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Galatians 2:16-19 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law **I died to the law, so that I might live to God.** (ESV)

Yes, God still judges impartially on deeds, but God cares about what was in our heart when we do a thing and Jesus Christ saves us as we hold our faith in Him and we start doing works that are done lawfully, the way God wants them done. While we keep Jesus' commandments, we abide in Jesus' love as He has kept His Father's commandments and abides in His Father's love. And Father God loves us if we have faith in Jesus Christ came from God and love Him:

I Peter 1:14-25 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

Jesus does use "figures of speech". Not everything should be taken literally but we should seek to understand, and put His word into action:

John 10:6 - This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. (ESV)

John 16:25 - I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. (ESV)

Matthew 13:9-15 - He who has ears, let him hear. Then the disciples came and said to him, Why do you speak to them in parables? And he answered them, To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. (ESV)

John 3:3 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (ESV)

We must walk in Jesus' commandments and believe that He came from God:

John 16:25-28 - I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

I John 3:21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

So we should be walking in obedience to Jesus to be ready for the day of the Lord!

I Thessalonians 5:1-10 - Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.** (ESV)

We're disciplined in advance which means we're given the opportunity to get ready before comes judgement day, and what we need on judgement day is a love of the truth in our hearts rather than (G3123 mallon) a love of sin. Jesus Christ has come into the world from God in the flesh and He gave us His words of eternal life, and God humbled Himself and (**Philippians 2:8**) was obedient to God even to the point of death on a cross, light has come into the world, and people preferred darkness (evil, sin (**I Corinthians 10:6-14**)), to the light (Jesus (**John 8:12**)). The fruit of light is all that is good and right and true (**Ephesians 5:5-12, Proverbs 13:5**)). So we need to love and receive Jesus Christ and have a heart of love of the truth that produces the fruit of light:

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so **that we may not be condemned along with the world.** (ESV)

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:6-12 - Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. (ESV)

Psalms 52:1-5 - Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. To the choirmaster. A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul, David has come to the house of Ahimelech. Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. **You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right.** Selah You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue. **But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living.** Selah (ESV)

In this life we are disciplined in this life to walk in faith, love and holiness. It's appointed for man to die once and then there is judgement:

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

John 5:17-29 - But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)

God is the judge of the living and the dead. I think that it's definitely correct and to do as Peter advises here and put a stop to literally the list of things he's saying to put a stop to:

I Peter 4:1-5 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (ESV)

We need a righteousness sufficient to enter the kingdom of heaven and we can have that righteousness by imputation through faith in the truth. We must abide in the teaching of Christ, though. We need to have faith in the real Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:11-13 - He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (ESV)

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

But this faith must be a "lawful" faith. The commandment of faith must not violate the 2 Great Commandments. Jesus Christ has to be our greatest agape love:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

Galatians 1:8-9 - But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. (ESV)

Matthew 22:37-40 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:9-10 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (ESV)

This is reiterated in the Apostle John's words:

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Jesus Christ has to be our greatest agape love. We certainly must prefer Jesus to sin. But we must also prefer Him to everything else:

Mark 8:35 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (ESV)

Colossians 3:4 - When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:1-5 - "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first (G4413 protos) love (G26 **agape**). Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. (NASB)

John 3:14-19 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than (G3123 mallon, rather/more than, in preference to, instead of) light, because their deeds were evil. (KJV)

Matthew 10:32-38 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

One must be born-again of water and the spirit and do the will of Father God to enter the kingdom of God:

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:31-32 - Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

We must continue in the faith, even continue in the faith through "tribulation":

Acts 14:21-22 - When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

It's not possible to cheat Jesus over it. He can see the heart:

Matthew 18:3 - and said, Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

So if a person agrees with Holy Spirit that Father God was just in justifying Jesus and raising Him from the dead for His perfect obedience to Father God while we were yet sinners (i.e. God loved us first before we loved Him), for fulfilling the entire Law and the prophets, for being good as Father God is also good, for practicing perfect righteousness, then that is a very righteous agreement a person is making in agreeing with God over it. I think that righteousness is the righteousness one requires to enter the Kingdom of God. I think that is where imputed righteousness comes from, or at least that is in agreement itself with the Truth. But that's the intuition of it, I think. If God made a very important judgement that affects the whole of humanity then we better be in agreement with it.

Romans 1:4 - and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, (ESV)

So trusting that Father God was in Jesus doing His works seems to be strongly linked to believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and also trusting that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is agreeing with Holy Spirit and Holy Spirit has testified of this by Jesus' Resurrection from the dead (**Romans 1:4**):

John 14:10-15 - Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do;** and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 5:36 - But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. (ESV)

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned (G2919 krinetai: is judged V-PIM/P-3S), but whoever does not believe is condemned already (G2919 kekrītai: has been judged V-RIM/P-3S), because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

John 20:30-31 - Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

So trusting in Father God involves trusting in His righteous judgement regarding Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:22-25 - That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness. But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

However this faith that we must have is one which accompanies agape love for Jesus. So we also rejoice with the truth (**I Corinthians 13:1-8**) that God has judged justly and raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead declaring Him to be the Son of God, and we agape love Jesus Christ as we hold our faith in Him and in Father God:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

Now some people distort this idea of "imputed righteousness" and make it sound like a person can do no wrong after coming to faith because Jesus "took their place", where I think that real faith continues (it's a doing word), and the love we must have for Jesus Christ is abiding in His commandments. So imputed righteousness is a righteousness which we hold while we have faith in and love for the Lord. Naturally, we must prefer Him to sin. We must be repentant from sin to have this imputed righteousness. And the faith is ongoing. Pisteuo is a verb, a doing word. We've got to "do" Christ's law of faith:

John 3:16 (Interlinear) Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 agapaó - *value, treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. monogenēs - *unique, only begotten*) Son that (G2443 hina - *in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 pisteuo) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

I will just say this here, I think that Father God was always pleased with Jesus Christ, His Son, and the chastisement He received is better viewed as God allowing Him to "take a beating", rather than God's wrath against Him. I don't think God was wrathful at all towards Jesus. But all the while, Jesus maintained love and faithfulness for His friends and perfect obedience to Father God.

Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and **by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.** (ESV)

I also believe that it's totally biblical that if we do not go on abiding in Jesus' commandments then there is the real consequence of being "grafted out" of Christ.

Romans 11:19-21 - Then you will say, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. (ESV)

We must continue on in faith in Jesus and not desiring evil:

Jude 1:5 - Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. (ESV)

Jeremiah 49:12 - For thus says the LORD: If those who did not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, will you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, but you must drink. (ESV)

Jeremiah 25:29 - For behold, I begin to work disaster at the city that is called by my name, and shall you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, declares the LORD of hosts. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:1-12 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock

that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. (ESV)

Romans 11:21-23 - For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. (ESV)

So the "substitutionary sacrifice" of Jesus dying in one's place I think has to be seen still through the lens of how the Scriptures say it is appropriated, rather than trying to shoehorn everything else to fit the idea that Jesus took one's place. Salvation is still received through faith and obedience to Jesus Christ, abiding in His commandments. And we must continue to abide in His commandments:

Matthew 20:25-28 - But Jesus called them to him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Getting born-again of the spirit, God's put a spotlight on my heart. Now the time for such "sensuality" is past. I think of everything being like day, all my thoughts and deeds are on full display to heaven, like Candid Camera. So rather than continuing on behaving as "children of the night", we should be walking as children of the day, soberly, focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ, forsaking sin, forsaking uncleanness, forsaking wastefulness (prodigal son like wastefulness), forsaking debauchery, and instead focus on doing what God wants us to be doing, using the time wisely, hoping in Jesus for that future salvation, for His coming, through the eyes of faith. So we are advised to change to be wise and walk as children of light:

Ephesians 5:8-21 - for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:5-10 - For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (ESV)

Some people heed this advice and some people do not. And to connect with another passage, I want to be counted among the wise:

Matthew 25:7-12 - Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves. And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. (ESV)

God is the Judge of the living and the dead. The Son will judge. But both the Father and the Son are God, they're both Jehovah:

Acts 10:41-44 - not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that **everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name**. While Peter was still saying these things, **the Holy Spirit** fell on all who heard the word. (ESV)

John 5:21-25 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges (G2919 krinei: judges) no one, but has given all judgment (G2920 krisin: judgment) to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears (G191 akouó) my word (G3056 logos) and believes (G4100 pisteuó) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (G2064 erchomai) into judgment, but has passed (G3327 metabain) from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (ESV)

There is a "last day" and we want to have put our faith in Jesus before the last day.

John 12 seems to articulate that when Jesus came He didn't come to judge. But that there remains a latter judgement if Jesus is rejected and those that reject Him or His words are judged by Him (Jesus, the Son of God) on the basis of what they rejected of Him. The Son of God does judge. So God is the Judge of the Living and the dead. But the Father does not judge but the Son does judge. But if in advance of "the last day" a person puts their faith in Jesus then they are saved by Him rather than judged. And following from that, sanctification would then involve ongoing trusting in the voice of Jesus, and that involves trusting in His words, coming into agreement with His words, as they are heard:

John 12:44-47 (Interlinear) And if anyone [of Me hears] the words (i.e. hears Jesus' words) and not keeps [them] (G5442 phylaxē) I not (G2919 krinō: do judge [Tense: V-PIA-1S. i.e. presently judge]) (G846 auton: him) [...] not for I came that I might judge the world but that I might save the world

John 12:44-48 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. **I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.** If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge (G2919 krinō: do judge) him; for I did not come to judge the world (G2919 krinō: I might judge) but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

So it follows that if someone is trusting in Jesus and His words as they are heard, then they will be saved and not condemned and that is both a present reality and a later reality. God sees our hearts in advance of the last day.

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned (G2919 krinetai: is judged V-PIM/P-3S), but whoever does not believe is condemned already (G2919 kekritatī: has been judged V-RIM/P-3S), because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

Polycarp 6:3 For every one who shall not confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is antichrist: and whosoever shall not confess (G3670 homologeó) the testimony of the Cross, is of the devil; and whosoever shall pervert the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts and say that there is neither resurrection nor judgment, that man is the firstborn of Satan.

Romans 14:10-14 - Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess (G1843 exomologeó) to God. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. (ESV)

There is ultimately a total ending of this present heavens and earth and an entirely new creation, and we have hope for a good future in an entirely new heavens and a new hearth and we prepare ourselves for this by walking in faith, love and holiness. We're instructed to do the will of God. We trust in God's promises through the eyes of faith:

II Peter 3:10-14 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:37-40 - They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. (ESV)

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

To use some computer science lingo, by the end/close of the age, we want to be "sorted" (**Matthew 13:49**) into (counted among) the wheat, not sorted into the tares because the tares are the ungodly people (the children of the devil, people who prefer sin to God) who are destroyed by fire. Annihilated is not the right word I think because the fire is eternal. The children of God go to a new creation where righteousness dwells. Until the day of the Lord where the heavens literally melt with heat, I do believe God does take care of and renew the earth. But there is an entirely new creation which we hope for. I truly think that there is ultimately an entirely new creation which we hope for, not a mere derivative. There is no good future without God. We want to have "forked" off with the wheat and not with the tares and so not experience the bad future. So we must not continue to desire evil (**I Corinthians 10:6-12**):

II Peter 3:5-7 - For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. (ESV)

Matthew 25:41 - Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels

II Thessalonians 1:5-10 - This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (ESV)

God wants us to accept correction from Him because He loves us. So God sent Jesus to us to instruct us (**Matthew 28:19-20**, **Hebrews 12:25**) so that we can remember Him (**Luke 22:19**), look upon Him and live (**John 6:40**):

Zephaniah 3:6-7 - I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant. I said, Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you. But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:32 - For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Our hearts are circumcised in order for us to love God with all our heart and soul that we may live. So, yes, we must love God and continue to love God after the surgical operation that God does on our hearts in order that we may live:

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (ESV)

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:32 - For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:30-32 - Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

Colossians 2:11-14 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (ESV)

Yes, even after receiving Jesus, even after we first come to faith in Jesus, even after we are born-again of the spirit, whatever place we are in as Christians, we are certainly supposed to continue on in the love of the truth, and fulfill the law of Christ, and love who we are commanded to love in the way we are commanded to love:

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

Galatians 6:2-6 - **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 5:1-2 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

We should bear fruit in keeping with repentance. We repent from sin to trust in God and stop desiring evil and we go to the good future:

Luke 3:8-9 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (ESV)

II Peter 1:5-10 - For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was **cleansed from his former sins.** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (ESV)

Satan (the 'god' of this age) has been judged already and tries to stop others from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. Satan tries to mind-blind people from seeing Christ and understanding the gospel clearly and accurately and truthfully:

John 16:8-11 - And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (ESV)

II Corinthians 4:4 - The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (engbsb2020eb)

John 14:9 - Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father? (ESV)

We need to be sanctified (cleaned up, I Thessalonians 4:3-8) and thus acceptable to God:

Romans 15:14-16 - I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

While a person is loving God and their family in Christ, having their souls sanctified by obedience to the truth, they may and should also be walking in the good works which have been gifted to us to walk in. Chronologically, we may be being sanctified (by obedience to the Truth) at the same time as we are walking in the good works gifted to us. While the good works being done and our faith and obedience may all overlap, the works are not strictly the obedience (I Corinthians 13:1-8), and we're not sanctified by the good works, but rather by the faith and the obedience. We're sanctified by obedience to Jesus (I Peter 1:22). The blood of Jesus cleans us as we walk in the light (I John 1:7).

God will judge those that continue practicing wickedness loving evil:

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor **among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Also, we **must** love one-another:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

Let it be true that we love Jesus Christ and believe in Him even before having seen Him:

I Peter 1:6-9 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.** (ESV)

Psalms 145:20 - The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. (ESV)

Blessed are those who have believed before having come to see and know for certain:

John 20:29 - Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. (ESV)

Blessed are those who have been taught Christ's doctrine and also practice it in that they love like Jesus Christ:

John 13:15-17 - For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Children of the Kingdom of God purify themselves, but children of the devil do not. The children of the devil are the weeds (they affirm (**Psalms 52:1-5**) rather than forsake sin). We must be cleaned by obedience to the Truth for a sincere love of our family in Christ that we may see Him. At the end of sanctification is having eternal life and not being able to lose that eternal life and the salvation of our souls. The "one born of God" (the new creation self) keeps himself (is mindful for obedience to God) and the devil does not harm him (**I John 5:18**, **Proverbs 16:7**, **Psalms 115:11**):

I John 3:1-11 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:14 - Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (ESV)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

Psalms 52:1-5 - Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. To the choirmaster. A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul, David has come to the house of Ahimelech. Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. **You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right.** Selah You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue. **But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living.** Selah (ESV)

This is just a Bible study. I have just wanted to read the Bible for myself to understand and apply the Scriptures, come into agreement with God's Truth and share my understanding it with others for accountability purposes, and also affirm truth as I am renewed in mind by it. I don't presume to be always right. Also, just because I have quoted some pastors and authors does not mean that I affirm everything they have ever said, but I have selected quotes which I have found to be relevant and helpful. I want to let the Bible smash bad theology. I've also added parts of my own testimony. It's my hope that this Bible study helps other people to come to the obedience of faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:25-32 - And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you **the whole counsel of God**. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are **sanctified**. (ESV)

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (ESV)

Job 42:7 - After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. (ESV)

We are accountable to our Lord Jesus Christ for our actions and beliefs youtube.com: Isn't Veganism Closer to God's Original Design?

Romans 14:4 - Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? **It is before his own master that he stands or falls.** And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (ESV)

youtube.com: Preaching The Gospel To The Homeless {@thebrycecrawford} @time: 7 min 44 sec
And when I look at the history and story of Jesus, Jesus laying His life down on the cross, his love, dying for someone like Gage right now. If I saved your life and shoved you out of the way of a car and I took the hit of a car and I died, would that show you that I loved you? It would. Even though we'd just met? Right. And so Jesus Christ died on the cross, a death that we deserve, because sin is wrong... Like sin, wrongdoing, separates us from God and Jesus Christ dying and resurrecting, He defeats death because He's God and He says, I died the death that you deserve so you can live for Me. So the redemption of the cross was to bring us back into relationship with Him.

youtube.com: Preaching The Gospel To The Homeless {@thebrycecrawford} @time: 9 min 18 sec
Did you feel anything when we were praying for you? Yes. Describe it, what did you feel? Washed. Washed? That's biblical, bro. Because sin is washed with the blood of Jesus. The blood of Jesus washes our slate clean. So, actually, anything that we've ever done wrong, if we believe in Jesus' death and resurrection and confess that He is Lord, He wipes our slate clean and says, I see you as pure, holy, righteous and clean. That's sweet. How cool is that? Different. Different, right? Like what if I told you that God isn't just energy. What if I told you that He is a being and listen to this, because we're human and we're finite and our minds are limited in understanding, God took on the form of a human to show us how to live life. He doesn't just tell us how to do it, He showed us and He lived a perfect life and when He died on the cross He was a perfect human being, 100% man and 100% God, God in the flesh, dying for us to show us how to live and how to love Him, and showing us how to love us. And then He resurrected. Because if He just died and didn't come back to life then believing in Him would be worthless. But because Jesus resurrected from the dead and over 500 people saw Jesus alive after he had died, and walking around the earth, it shows us that He's God and that He loves us and He wants relationship with us.

AMEN!!

Receiving Jesus:

Matthew 10:40 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. (ESV)

Matthew 18:5 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, (ESV)

Luke 9:48 - and said to them, Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great. (ESV)

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

When we are called by God, what matters is keeping the commandments of God. I disagree with the added word "conversely" which the BSB translation inserts into I Corinthians 7:22 where it does not exist in the Greek. In fact, the Greek says "likewise" (G3668 homoiós, likewise, in a similar manner). Whether slaves to men or not, under the Mosaic Law or not, as a new creation in Christ we go on keeping God's commandments for us, and that counts for something for all of us (**Galatians 3:28**), not just some of us. We have to continue on abiding in Jesus' commandments. Everyone who is "in Christ" is both a freedman of the Lord Jesus Christ and a slave of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus sets us free from slavery to sin to serve Him instead. Before we were "free in regard to righteousness" but no longer:

I Corinthians 7:17-24 - Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity. For **he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise (G3668 homoiós, likewise, in a similar manner) he who was free when called is a slave of Christ.** You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. (ESV)

John 8:34-36 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

Romans 6:17-20 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (ESV)

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

We must accept that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, to not be condemned:

John 8:23-24 - He said to them, You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for **unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.** (ESV)

I John 2:22-23 - Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (ESV)

I also believe, we must accept, we must trust that Jesus is Jehovah, I AM, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to not die in our sins. We must accept the truth. We must not reject the truth.

Jehovah is God Almighty:

Exodus 6:3 - I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. (ESV)

biblehub.com: **Exodus 6:3 Interlinear** and I appear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; as to My name Jehovah, I have not been known to them;

Exodus 3:14-15 - God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And he said, Say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel, The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is I AM. That means that Jesus Christ the Son of God is Jehovah, just as Father God is Jehovah. Saying that Jesus Christ is I AM is still not saying that the Son of God is Father God. But they are both the one God.

biblehub.com: **John 8:24 Interlinear** I said therefore to you that you will die in the sins of you if for not you believe that I am (G1473 egō G1510 eimi **I AM or I am He**) you will die in the sins of you

1 2036 3767 4771 3754 599 1722 3588
2 eipon oun hymin hoti apothaneisthe en tais
3
4 I said therefore to you that you will die in the
5 V-AIA-1S Conj PPro-D2P Conj V-FIM-2P Prep Art-DFP
6
7 266 4771 1437 1063 3361 4100 3754 1473 1510
8 hamartiais hymōn ean gar mē pisteusēte hoti egō eimi
9 ; ,
10 sins of you if for not you believe that I am [He]
11 N-DFP PPro-G2P Conj Conj Adv V-ASA-2P Conj PPro-N1S V-PIA-1S
12
13 599 1722 3588 266 4771
14 apothaneisthe en tais hamartiais hymōn
15 .
16 you will die in the sins of you
17 V-FIM-2P Prep Art-DFP N-DFP PPro-G2P

biblehub.com 8-58.htm: **John 8:58 Interlinear** Said to them Jesus Truly truly I say to you before Abraham was I am (G1473 egō G1510 eimi **I AM or I am He**)

1 2036 846 2424 281 281 3004 4771
2 Eipen autois Iēsous Amēn amēn legō hymin
3 E , , , ,
4 Said to them Jesus Truly truly I say to you
5 V-AIA-3S PPro-DM3P N-NMS Heb Heb V-PIA-1S PPro-D2P
6
7 4250 11 1096 1473 1510
8 prin Abraam genesthai egō eimi

9
10 before Abraham was I am
11 Adv N-AMS V-ANM PPro-N1S V-PIA-1S

John 4:25-26 - The woman said to him, I know that **Messiah** is coming (he who is called **Christ**). When he comes, he will tell us all things. **Jesus said to her, I who speak to you am he.** (ESV)

John 8:26-28 - I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him. They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said to them, When you have lifted up the **Son of Man**, then you will know that **I am he**, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. (ESV)

For salvation we should be unifying in heart and soul with other believers, with other people who are holding their faith in Christ Jesus. In Christ Jesus, we're all aboard the ark of Jesus Christ:

Acts 4:32 - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

For salvation, we should be confessing with our mouth:

Romans 10:10 - For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

youtube.com: Faith must ABIDE in the HEART. The nature of faith. {@MarkHemans} @time: 3 min 4
Don't be afraid to confess your faith to others.

If we are "in the Spirit" then what other people confess or refuse to confess identifies whether or not the spirit working through them is from God. The principle can and should be used to test dreams, visions, angels, demons and human beings to see if we can trust them. I would never trust someone completely who refuses to give me the testimony that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, as the Apostle John speaks of in I John 4:2-3.

I John 4:2-3 doesn't say that if a spirit speaks the name "Jesus" then it's from God. It doesn't say that at all. Rather, this word confess (G3670 homologeó) surely means that "confess Jesus" is agreeing with, agreeing with Jesus. The spirit must agree that Jesus has come in the flesh and the spirit must agree with Jesus. Now if a spirit does say to me that "Jesus Christ has come from God into the world in the flesh", then that gives me confidence that the message is from God:

I John 4:2-3 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

Polycarp 6:3 For every one who shall not confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is antichrist: and whosoever shall not confess (G3670 homologeó) the testimony of the Cross, is of the devil; and whosoever shall pervert the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts and say that there is neither resurrection nor judgment, that man is the firstborn of Satan.

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

I Corinthians 12:3 - Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says Jesus is accursed! and no one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Demons can mention Jesus' name. I John 4:2-3 doesn't say that if a spirit speaks the name "Jesus" then it's from God:

Luke 8:28 - When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me. (ESV)

And we should confess our faith to one-another, and confess truth to one-another, love one-another as Jesus commanded and pray for one-another:

Colossians 3:8-10 - But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (ESV)

We should even confess our sins to one another and repent before one-another:

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (ESV)

Acts 19:17-19 - And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. (ESV)

Mark 1:5 - And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us**; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

I Peter 4:19 - Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

In Hebrews, we are also instructed to "not waver" in our confession. So what we are agreeing with and continuing to agree with certainly does matter. We should keep confessing what we are hoping for and hold fast to that confession and not waver. God is faithful and His promises are trustworthy and we should agree with and be corrected by and keep agreeing with God:

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:9 - God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:24 - He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (ESV)

We are instructed also to not doubt with our faith:

Luke 24:38-39 - And he said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. (ESV)

James 1:5-8 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (ESV)

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

So we should not shrink back but be faithful, not doubt, continue living by and not waver in our faith, enduring the trials and tribulations and resistance to our faith so that we can receive. A person's resisting of sin done in faith is indeed an act of faith. Repentance from sin (fear of God. See **Proverbs 8:13**) and faith certainly go hand in hand (**Hebrews 6:1**):

Hebrews 10:32-39 - But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Dr. Michael S. Heiser Salvation is not gained by moral perfection. It is a gift that comes by grace, through faith (Eph 2:8-9). That in turn means salvation cannot be lost by moral imperfection (Galatians 2:17-21). What is not at all gained by performance cannot be lost by poor performance. Salvation is about believing loyalty - trusting what Jesus did to defeat Satan's claim and turning from all other gods and the belief systems of which they are a part [See quote].

Hebrews 3:14 - For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:5-6 - Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (ESV)

Galatians 3:22 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. (ESV)

It's necessary to separate from idolators in order to be received by God and to be sons and daughters to God. There's no partnership between righteousness and lawlessness. And being the temple of God involves turning away from false gods and separating from idolators. II Cor 6:14-8 makes it clear that faith, belief in Jesus involves repentance from sin and walking in God's commandments and including worshiping and serving one True God only. Being a son or daughter of God involves turning away from false gods. God gives the promise and we respond to that promise by turning away from false gods and turning away from other forms of sin, and this turning from sin is necessary to be a child of the Most High God:

II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Exodus 20:2-3 - I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. (ESV)

Exodus 20:4-6 - You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. (ESV)

Luke 4:7-8 - If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours. And Jesus answered him, It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

I believe we have to remain faithful to Jesus:

Acts 11:23-24 - When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:37-39 - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; _but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. **But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.** (ESV)

Colossians 1:19-23 - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (ESV)

Jesus is the ultimate servant. When we say "we serve Jesus", the Truth is that He has served us, and we're endeavouring to imitate Him and have for others the same type of love He has had for us:

Matthew 20:25-28 - But Jesus called them to him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Matthew 25:40 - And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (ESV)

As Christians we endeavour to exercise the love that Jesus has shown us. Remember no servant is greater than their Master, so while we may fall short in serving Jesus and exercising this love, He's still our Master. And Jesus is pre-eminent, and we are only in this position of being able to serve others because of the grace we have received from God in Him:

Jesus is our Teacher and Lord. So we must trust Him and imitate Him as Teacher, and trust in Him and obey Him as Lord:

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

John 13:15-17 - For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (ESV)

Colossians 1:15-18 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.** (ESV)

While we may fall short as concerns the law, we still serve Christ, abiding in Him while we hold our faith in Him, and abiding in His love as we keep His commandments, and Christ is not a servant of sin. We come under Jesus' banner, and are justified though our faith in Him. But there is a sin problem and sanctification (us being cleaned up) happens while we are holding faith in Him and keeping Jesus' commandments. We keep Jesus' commandments and must continue keeping His commandments:

Galatians 2:17-21 - But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:20-25 - Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; **hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. Brothers, pray for us. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. (engbsb2020eb)

I Peter 4:7-8 - The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

John 6:57 - As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. (ESV)

Jesus commanded us to have faith in Him, He commanded us to love one another as He loved us and He also taught people to forsake sin (John 5:14, John 8:10-11). As Christians we are told that we must continue on, abiding in Jesus' teachings (II John 1:9-10). Through Jesus' teaching and commandments we can draw near to God through faith in Him and be saved.

Zephaniah 3:2 - She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God. (ESV)

Proverbs 15:10 - There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way; whoever hates reproof will die. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:25 - Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (ESV)

We must not refuse Jesus. We must accept His instruction and not turn away from Him:

Hebrews 12:25 (Interlinear) Take heed lest you refuse the [One] speaking If for they not escaped on earth having refused the [One] divinely instructing [them] much less we - the [One] from [the] heavens , turning away from (G654 apostrophomenoi)

Hebrews 12:22-25 - But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. **See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.** (ESV)

The doing of the law and the actions are subtly different. People can be doers of the law (people who love God and their neighbour) who act (produce good works):

James 1:21-25 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (ESV)

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:22-26 - This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:12 - Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. (ESV)

We must continue on in Jesus' teachings, keeping His commandments to abide/remain in love and abide/remain in God:

I John 4:16 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

Even Jesus Christ's commandments depend on the 2 Great Commandments, so as far as I understand we have to do Jesus' commandments lawfully and that means as we follow Jesus' commandments, that shouldn't violate the 2 Great Commandments. So in Christ we must also keep these 2 Great Commandments. That means we must agape-love God and agape love our neighbor as ourself. So even when we think about keeping God's commandments, such as to have faith in Jesus Christ, we must be doing this while at the same time agape-loving God and at the same time agape-loving our neighbour as ourself.

John 5:42-47 - But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (ESV)

Agape love is a treasuring/valuing/preserving/compassion love and God the Father and Jesus God the Son should be our first agape love, and those in the family of Christ we must also agape love, and our spouses we must agape love and we are even called to agape all people, but we're supposed to have no agape for this world:

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

It's fair to say that Jesus is not merely a prophet but also the Son of God. Since all the Law and the Prophets depend on the 2 Great Commandments. This means that even Jesus' commandments depend on the 2 Great Commandments:

Mark 6:4-5 - And Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household. And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. (ESV)

Read [gotquestions.org Jesus-prophet-priest-king.html](http://gotquestions.org/Jesus-prophet-priest-king.html): What does it mean that Jesus is prophet, priest, and king?
| GotQuestions.org

I John 5:1-2 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

Since Jesus Christ's Law is within the entirety of the Law of God, and if our abiding in Jesus Christ's commandments is acceptable to Him, then we are also acceptable to Father God because Jesus Christ, our Master, was able to satisfy Father God's commandments perfectly:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

youtube.com: Are Christians Under the Law? Don Carson Explains 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 {@thegospelco}

"I am not free from God's law in some sweeping sense. I am, rather under Christ's law." That is, he is under this New Covenant, this mandate from God that has been mediated through Christ and that will raise all

the questions about how you have continuity and discontinuity between the Old Covenant and the New. But what does he mean when he says then "though I am not lawless", I am not antinomian, I am not utterly open to anything that comes along, I am rather under Christ's law, I am under His Lordship. All that the New Covenant of which Jesus Christ is the head secured by his own blood. Everything that He demands in the structure of the New Covenant, I am under that. I can't escape that.

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

"The one having completed all of these external deeds will live" is probably an accurate way to understand "the one who does them shall live by them", as if there entire future is dependent on the completion of all of these external tasks:

Galatians 3:10-13 - For all who rely on works (G2041 ergōn: works, deed, action, task, labor) of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them (G4160. poieó To make, to do, to act, to cause, to work) shall live by them. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree— (ESV)

Abraham was tested to see if He had the fear of God in Him. Our faith must be like that. When we talk about "justification by works", it has to be on the basis of faith, on the basis of what's in the heart (in this case, the fear of God), rather than the external deed, otherwise it's no longer grace, but the exterior deed is an indicator of what is going on inside:

Genesis 22:12 - He said, Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me. (ESV)

Fear of God and hoping in God's steadfast love are strongly associated. Hoping in God's steadfast love and having the fear of God (wanting to please God, not wanting to sin against God), are strongly linked together. And because the faith we have is one which loves the truth of God, having the fear of God and having a love for the truth and a hatred of evil are all strongly linked together:

Psalms 33:18-19 - Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. (ESV)

Abiding by Christ's law (Christ's commandments), which is a law of faith (we're not under the curse of the law of Moses) and is not a law of works (**Romans 3:21-31**), is not being under a curse, but, rather is being under grace:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

When contrasting being "under law" to being "under grace", Paul is talking about people who "rely" on the "works" (the exterior stuff) of the law, the Mosaic Law (which came in after Abraham), who are under law. But the law of Christ which we are 'under' (abide in) is a different type of law, and the kind of law that it is is a law of faith. It's about the heart. And like Abraham, we should believe in, trust in, trust, agape love and obey Jesus. And just like Abraham's faith, our faith may be tested and a person may be justified by works, like Abraham's faith and that wasn't "works of the law of Moses" which came in later (to increase the trespass). But we don't "rely" on the justification by works of faith in Jesus, though that type of thing may happen.

Paul in **Galatians 3:10-13** is talking about people who "rely" on the "works" of the law.

Christian joy doesn't mean the opposite of sorrow. Christian joy is not merely "happiness":

Mark 14:32-36 - And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, Sit here while I pray. And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch. And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy that was set before him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted**. (ESV)

When we talk about 'merit' or 'credit', we were enabled to even be able to have merit in suffering for righteousness sake because Jesus bore our sins on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 'Live to righteousness' means walking in the light, walking in love and truth, practicing works that please God, making spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 13:1-8 says that without love (love that rejoices with the truth) we gain nothing. God loved us first and has chosen us to be a holy people for His possession, and we can now make spiritual sacrifices which God finds acceptable through Jesus Christ our Lord who we are holding faith in and who has loved us first, laying down His life for us first:

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. **Love the brotherhood.** Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

I Peter 2:4-5 - As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer **spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

Jesus can read all people's hearts, whether good or evil:

John 2:23-25 - Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them,

because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. (ESV)

Luke 9:47-48 - But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side and said to them, Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great. (ESV)

Matthew 9:4 - But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, Why do you think evil in your hearts? (ESV)

Psalm 139:2 - You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. (ESV)

Psalm 139:23 - Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! (ESV)

It's interesting... Jesus' disciples also gave a reason for why they trust He came from God. I'm certainly a fallible person and can't read everyone's hearts as Jesus can:

John 16:25 - I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. (ESV)

John 16:29-30 - His disciples said, Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God. (ESV)

Luke 5:22 - When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, Why do you question in your hearts? (ESV)

John 1:48-49 - Nathanael said to him, How do you know me? Jesus answered him, Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you. Nathanael answered him, Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel! (ESV)

John 17:6-8 - I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. (ESV)

All have died. Those who now live should live for him who for their sake died and was raised, therefore we no longer regard other people according to the flesh. All things are now new.

II Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. (ESV)

Believing in God and believing that He **rewards** those who seek Him, whilst holding our faith in Jesus Christ, we endeavour to do good out of obedience to Jesus Christ. We want to please God with our lives. God purchased our redemption with Jesus' blood and the blood of Jesus Christ washes us as we walk in the light as He is in the light. Just because God purchased us, that doesn't take away our free will to choose who we will continue to obey. God wants us to choose to continue obediently holding faith in Him, trusting Him and obeying Him, and we want to (John 5:6) do that too because we want eternal life:

I Peter 3:2 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

If we choose instead to obey the flesh (the sinful nature) then that would lead to corruption (Gal 6:7-8). If we choose to obey sin instead of obey God then that would lead to death (Romans 6:23, James 1:12-15) as sin in the flesh has been condemned (Romans 8:1-6). If we choose to obey Christ instead of sin then we will be saved (Hebrews 5:8-9). If we obey the One True God then we'll receive the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 5:8-9). It's much better to have eternal life and nice rewards from God than it is to be overcome by sin, so we should sow to the Spirit (Gal 6:7-8).

James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

I believe that we have to love the light and hate the darkness. If people love their sin more than they love Jesus then I doubt that they would be washed from it. We have to agree with God over matters of sin in order to be cleaned from sin:

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

I John 1:9 - If we confess (**G3670 homologeó**) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

Psalms 52:1-5 - Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. To the choirmaster. A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul, David has come to the house of Ahimelech. Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. **You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right.** Selah You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue. **But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living.** Selah (ESV)

I must have been tired last night <2025-10-08 Wed> as I misreferenced this saying Hebrews quoted Jesus. Rather Jesus quotes the Wisdom of God. But still, Jesus did speak it.

Jesus is the Wisdom of God though, particularly to those who are called by God:

Luke 11:49-51 - Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. (ESV)

Matthew 23:34-36 - Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:11-13 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (ESV)

Jesus is the Wisdom of God to those who are called:

I Corinthians 1:23-24 - but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:30 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (ESV)

Colossians 2:3 - in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (ESV)

As called people, we are to walk in holiness:

II Chronicles 7:14 - if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (ESV)

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Luke 8:15 - As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (ESV)

Luke 3:8 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. (ESV)

And we're called to practice righteousness:

Acts 26:20 - but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, **performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.** (ESV)

I John 5:4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (ESV)

Finding the Wisdom of God, we find Jesus and find life. Those who hate Jesus love death:

Proverbs 8:35-36 - For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death. (ESV)

The reason we want to be righteous (John 5:6) is so we get God, not that we **become** God but that we abide in God. To treasure anyone or anything more than God is sin. God rewards us with Himself (**I Corinthians 1:9, Hebrews 10:23**), so it's righteous to want to be rewarded with God (Col 3:24, Heb 10:35, Heb 11:26, 2Jn 1:8):

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for **whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.** (ESV)

We must be seeking commendation from God:

John 12:41-46 - Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for **they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God**. And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (ESV)

We must do the will of God. The knowledge of the truth accords with godliness (which has a lot to do with having the love of God in us and to do with holiness), and our faith is in God in hope of eternal life. God is faithful (**Hebrews 10:23**) so we are trusting in someone who is trustworthy and who has made promises that we trust:

Hebrews 10:36-39 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Titus 1:1-2 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (ESV)

The type of seeking for glory that is righteous is not a self-seeking seeking. Obeying the Truth, obeying Jesus Christ in actuality will involve making sacrifices, because, for example, Jesus calls us to not render evil for evil but love and do good towards those who hate us, and all of this while remaining faithful to Jesus Christ and holding onto the Truth of the gospel, because without justification through faith in Christ, we can't make acceptable sacrifices to God. And so true obedience to Jesus cannot be said to be self-serving, nor self-righteousness and the type of glory being sought is glory which glorifies Jesus, our Saviour:

Romans 2:4-8 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

God has works that we are able to work "while it is day":

John 9:4-5 - We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (ESV)

Trusting in Jesus we are labouring for this food which Jesus gives us, and it's God's work which He is doing in us, not our "own" work:

John 6:27-29 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

Luke 12:31 - Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. (ESV)

In Christ Jesus, we may boast of our works that Christ accomplishes through us:

Romans 15:17-18 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:57-58 - But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

It's right to affirm that we reap reward for doing good. After coming to faith in Jesus we are literally instructed to "do good", to do what is pleasing to God:

Galatians 6:7-10 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

We are set free from sin including slavery to anything that is not God, and we become slaves of God:

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Galatians 4:7-8 - So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. (ESV)

The Bible says that having salvific righteousness before God in his sight (in his omniscient sight, he can see our hearts and deeds) and peace in our hearts doesn't take much time. We have to place our faith in Christ. Have faith in God. Have faith in Jesus Christ:

Psalms 78:21-22 - Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, because they did not **believe in God** and did not **trust his saving power**. (ESV)

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ in the heart is how to get saved:

Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (ESV)

Romans 10:4-11 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you **will be saved**. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

Acts 16:31 - And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. (ESV)

Luke 8:12 - The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (ESV)

God even hears the words we speak in our hearts:

I Samuel 1:11-16 - And she vowed a vow and said, O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart.

Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, How long will you go on being drunk? Put away your wine from you. But Hannah answered, No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation. (ESV)

Genesis 24:42-45 - I came today to the spring and said, O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, Please give me a little water from your jar to drink, and who will say to me, Drink, and I will draw for your camels also, let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son. Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, Please let me drink. (ESV)

Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (ESV)

Nehemiah 2:4-5 - Then the king said to me, What are you requesting? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it. (ESV)

We also need to have the love of God in us. We need to desire God in preference to desiring what is not God. If people prefer praise and congratulations from men to praise and congratulations from God, then that is desiring what is not God over God. God is the Truth, the True reality, and we should not for fear of man withhold confessing Jesus:

John 12:41-46 - Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for **they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God**. And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (ESV)

If you are believing in your heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and confessing that Jesus is Lord then you will be saved. God sees your heart and you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

So try to hold these two things together in your heart and make a vocal confession with your mouth if possible.
Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and while believing that also confess Jesus is Lord.

In doing this, it should give a person relief and confidence that they have been heard by God. That message got through. When you do this, it's like putting out an SOS signal, or calling International Rescue (a reference to Thunderbirds), and knowing you've been heard by God and He is rescuing you. God sees the thoughts of our hearts. That's one reason why the Thunderbirds analogy is cool. In the Thunderbirds, they listen to radios worldwide on any frequency for distress calls. So if you're in slavery to sin and perishing and want hope for eternal life, then you call out to God like it says in Romans 10:4, believing in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and confessing Jesus is Lord then your next thoughts can be "I'm OK. I'm safe. Jesus is saving me." because He is.

Proverbs 18:10 - The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. (ESV)

Just keep in mind that we still continue in hope for future salvation, right until we are with the Lord Jesus:

Acts 15:11 - But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will. (ESV)

I Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (ESV)

Jude 1:19-21 - It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

God has given some assurance to us (by raising Jesus Christ from the dead) that there is a day coming when He will judge the world in righteousness. We should believe this in our heart that God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. There's plenty of evidence for it. If we want to (John 5:6) be saved, would should believe what God has done. But certainly, we must repent from sin and trust in God, we must come to the love of the truth (that is, love the truth of God):

Acts 17:30-31 - The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (ESV)

To be saved, we must trust in what is true, we must agape love the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:9-12 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (ESV)

Luke 8:12 - The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (ESV)

To be saved, we must be sanctified by the spirit and trusting in the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

To be sanctified and thus saved, we must obey the truth for a love of our family in Christ:

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

To be sanctified and thus saved, we must hold faith in Jesus Christ:

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

A lot of English translations insert the words "at the present time" into Romans 3:26, but I don't see it in the original text. But it's clearly linked to and understood better alongside **I Peter 1:8-11**. We must continue abiding in Christ's teachings. Yes, we believe that God has put forward Christ Jesus as a propitiation by His blood which is to be received by faith. God has full sovereignty (because He is the justifier) to determine and justify and commend whoever He deems has faith in Jesus Christ. What must we do? What is our duty? Fear Him and keep His commandments. He commanded faith. We must have faith in Jesus Christ. God tests our hearts. The righteousness in the actual doing of the law above (even doing it whilst not having necessarily heard it) is still upheld but there is now the righteousness that is by faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, keeping the commandments of God and following Jesus are not mutually exclusive. And the law still describes what good behaviour looks like and what bad behaviour looks like. But through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, as we follow and place our faith in Jesus, obeying Jesus to repent from sin and to do good and to pass forward love and forgiveness, etc., we can be justified by our faith in Jesus. As we go on living, we keep our obedient believing faith in Jesus, and no longer want to rebel against God's law. Perfect compliance to the law is no longer the basis of our justification but we seek to not break the law. One of Paul's points here is that the Gentiles did not have the Law given through Moses. So the works of the Law that Paul is talking about are the works of the Mosaic Law:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

We can have and should have a faith that loves the truth, loves Jesus, even if we haven't seen Him yet:

I Peter 1:8-11 - Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time (G2540 *kairós*) the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent (G3326 *meta*, contingent) glories. (ESV)

"*Kairós*" is qualitative and "*xrónos*" is quantitative:

G2540 *kairós* time as opportunity. 2540 /*kairós* ("opportune time") is derived from *kara* ("head") referring to things "coming to a head" to take full-advantage of.

G5550 *xrónos* time (in general), especially viewed in sequence (a "succession of moments"); time in duration in the physical-space world, sovereignly apportioned by God to each person.

In the ESV translation of I Peter 1:11, the word 'subsequent' represents the Greek word 'meta' (G3326 *meta*, contingent), but I think that an English translation would better translate 'meta' as "contingent" because that opens up to the reader the potential to be understood in a quantitatively chronological timelessness way as '*kairós*' is also chronologically quantitatively neither here nor there. So in the original text, I think the Greek word 'meta'

fits well alongside the word 'kairós'. It's not 'xrónos' which is in I Peter 1:11, but 'kairós' and so it's talking about the opportune moment in a qualitative way. The issue, I think, with using 'subsequent' is that it introduces into the text subliminally an idea that God had to "wait" for the "xrónos" time in order to commend the righteousness that is by faith, but that's evidently not true, and also in the very same verse, I Peter 1:11, it says there in the text that the Spirit of Christ was in them.

Sincerely, in the sight of God, I am seeking to speak the truth about Jesus accurately, and let people know that we should be faithfully waiting for a future salvation, and not trying to give people false comfort with a false gospel:

II Corinthians 2:14-17 - But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. (ESV)

I believe that Jesus will judge according to the Truth. Even though my theology has imperfections, I think that ultimately, Jesus will judge according to His word and I'm at His mercy.

I recognize that I am a sinful person and still need God to justify me through faith in Jesus Christ, not of my own works. I think that "sinful" (i.e. having indwelling sin) is more accurate than saying "sinner" for someone who God has given a new heart and spirit.

Luke 5:8-10 - But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men. (ESV)

I do not believe that 'works' exactly equals 'obedience', but I believe that Jesus has commanded us to have faith in Him, and to put faith in Him and His blood is obedient to the commandment of faith in Him:

Romans 3:3-6 - What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! **Let God be true though every one were a liar**, as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged. But if **our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God**, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? (ESV)

Romans 3:21-28 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe**. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (ESV)

This is a short preview of where I'm at with my theology. I don't claim to know everything or to have perfect theology:

1 If we trust God, believing on Yeshua's (Jesus's) name, it's 'typically' but
2 not necessarily the initial act of obedience of a Christian, but it is a
3 vital act of obedience, Jesus having commanded us to trust Him, and believe
4 Him, especially concerning His name as Son of God, Christ, Messiah as foretold

5 by the prophets, and we are sealed by the Holy Spirit when we do this.

6
7 Acts 10:43 - To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who
8 believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.
9 (ESV)

10
11 Then we call on Jesus to save us, (usually out of desperation).
12 Noone calls on a law to save them. We call on Jesus to save us. This is
13 another act of obedience to the Gospel.

14
15 Romans 10:12-16 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the
16 same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.
17 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are
18 they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to
19 believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear
20 without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are
21 sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach
22 the good news! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says,
23 Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us? (ESV)

24
25 II Timothy 2:22 - So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness,
26 faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure
27 heart. (ESV)

28
29 Ephesians 1:7-12 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the
30 forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which
31 he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the
32 mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in
33 Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him,
34 things in heaven and things on earth.
35 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according
36 to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his
37 will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the
38 praise of his glory.
39 (ESV)

40
41 Trust, obedience, belief and faith are not really separate things when it
42 comes to believing the Word of God in the heart, and if a person has put their
43 trust in Jesus then they've done something which is in the will of God.

44
45 Our faith and obedience are supposed to continue as we are sanctified and are
46 taught by Christ, especially by the teachings He taught while walking the
47 earth even before His crucifixion.

48
49 Trust, belief and obedience, and even agape and knowledge of God when they are
50 settled in the heart is what God sees and God is our justifier, and He
51 justifies the one who puts their faith/trust in Jesus Christ, and we continue
52 trusting Him so we are teachable by Him - we accept His sayings and believe Him
53 and are corrected by Him.

54
55 Zephaniah 3:2 - She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She
56 does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God. (ESV)

58 Hebrews 7:25 - Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those
59 who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make
60 intercession for them. (ESV)

61

62 We believe by faith that we are justified by the blood of Jesus and just get
63 to serving God with agape love proceeding from a good conscience having
64 believed the Gospel and placed our faith in Christ.

65

66 We must continue to hold the faith and endeavour to maintain our good
67 conscience with God, and that includes forsaking sin (e.g. blasphemy):

68

69 I Timothy 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in
70 accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them
71 you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By
72 rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are
73 Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may
74 learn not to blaspheme. (ESV)

75

76 Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, He was
77 raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and He appeared to many
78 eye-witnesses.

79

80 In this way did God agape love (treasure/value) the world, that He gave His
81 Only-Begotten Son that everyone who is trusting/believing in Him [may] not
82 perish, but [may] have life everlasting which is to be reconciled to our Creator
83 and His Son, in relationship with God forever, never perishing nor being cut
84 off from our source of life and all that is good.

85

86 Even Jesus Christ's commandments depend on the 2 Great Commandments, so as far
87 as I understand we have to do Jesus' commandments lawfully and that means as we
88 follow Jesus' commandments, that shouldn't violate the 2 Great Commandments. So
89 in Christ we must also keep these 2 Great Commandments. That means we must
90 agape-love God and agape love our neighbor as ourself. So even when we think
91 about keeping God's commandments, such as to have faith in Jesus Christ, we
92 must be doing this while at the same time agape-loving God and at the same time
93 agape-loving our neighbour as ourself.

94

95 Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?
96 And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
97 and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and
98 first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor
99 as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the
100 Prophets. (ESV)

101

102 Agape love is a treasuring/valuing/preserving/compassion love and God the
103 Father and Jesus God the Son should be our first agape love, and those in the
104 family of Christ we must also agape love, and our spouses we must agape love
105 and we are even called to agape all people, but we're supposed to have no
106 agape for this world.

107

108 Agape-loving our neighbour as ourself necessitates not bearing a grudge against
109 our neighbour and not taking vengeance - there is no fear or grudge or
110 vengeance in agape love because agape love is selfless and compassionate and

111 agape love gives everything and holds nothing back to have a chance to
112 preserve and protect, to save. God would have sent Jesus even if there was
113 only one more person to save. Agape comes from God. God loved us this way and
114 paid the price for us for sin to be defeated that we may be reconciled back to
115 Him through Jesus. And we pass this type of love, agape love, forward to
116 others.

117
118 We move forward serving God with hope to see His glory:
119

120 Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and
121 after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear
122 the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to
123 save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

124
125 As we hope for His glory we renounce ungodliness and defend with authority and
126 without hypocrisy that this grace is for us to be purified. This purification
127 of the heart leaves us with a "desire" to do good works:

128
129 Titus 2:11-15 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for
130 all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and
131 to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,
132 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God
133 and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all
134 lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who
135 are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with
136 all authority. Let no one disregard you. (ESV)

137
138 II Corinthians 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised
139 against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey
140 Christ, (ESV)

141
142 I John 4:8 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is
143 love. (ESV)

144
145 I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we
146 love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

147
148 II Corinthians 10:11 - Let such a person understand that what we say by
149 letter when absent, we do when present. (ESV)

150
151 I Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners
152 compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain
153 it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to
154 receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run
155 aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body
156 and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should
157 be disqualified. (ESV)

158
159 Obedience is in the heart, along with belief in the Truth and understanding of
160 the gospel.

161
162 Romans 6:17-17 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of
163 sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to

164 which you were committed, (ESV)
165
166 Obedience to God, doing the will of God, can exist without work - a
167 willingness of the spirit.
168
169 John 5:39-40 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them
170 you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are
171 unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. (NASB)
172
173 Isaiah 1:19 - If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of
174 the land; (ESV)
175
176 Titus 3:1-2 - Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to
177 be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to
178 avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all
179 people. (ESV)
180
181 This is obvious when we see the commandment to not work on the Sabbath. But
182 obedience neither strictly means working nor does it strictly mean not
183 working. But rather doing the will of God.
184
185 Luke 6:9 - And Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful on the
186 Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? (ESV)
187
188 Jesus said, "The spirit is indeed willing but the flesh is weak." The law can
189 also be followed by faith where it's a matter of seeking praise from God and
190 not from men.
191
192 Matthew 26:40-43 - And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping.
193 And he said to Peter, So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and
194 pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is
195 willing, but the flesh is weak. Again, for the second time, he went away
196 and prayed, My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will
197 be done. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were
198 heavy. (ESV)
199
200 Our faith should be modelled on Abraham's faith.
201 By faith Abraham obeyed God out of trust. By faith Christians obey Christ out
202 of trust while submitting to His righteousness, not trying to establish our
203 own righteousness.
204
205 John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe (trust) in God;
206 believe (trust) also in me. (ESV)
207
208 I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name
209 of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded
210 us. (ESV)
211
212 John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
213 just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)
214
215 We're supposed to have joy in our obedience to God, as we obey Christ.
216

217 We're supposed to go from agapeing darkness to agapeing God's light, and into
218 walking in the light, walking in God's will, and we're supported by God's
219 Spirit as we are doing this.

We serve the Only True God, the Most High God, Jehovah and Jesus Christ who He has sent - the same God, and we are found in Christ Jesus:

I Corinthians 8:5-7 - For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many gods and many lords — yet **for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.** However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 10:17 - For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (ESV)

youtube.com: How to Exercise Real Authority over sickness & demons {@MarkHemans} @time: 12 min

When you use the name of Jesus, when that name is given to you from heaven, and not just when you want to use it, when it's given to you from heaven, there's authority and Jesus Christ is there. When Jesus Christ, when the Holy Spirit gives you the words to say and you speak them, Jesus Christ is present. Why? Because the words that you speak are from above. They're God's words for the moment and Jesus Christ is the Word of God and you are speaking Him, and He comes on the scene. So authority comes from Jesus Christ, not from you. That's a very fundamental basis. So Jesus said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." Because all authority has been given to Him, you can therefore go with authority. It's got nothing to do with you. It's His authority upon you as His disciple. A disciple comes under the Master. The disciple follows the instructions of the Master. You have been sent. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" And then it says, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded **you**. And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Where does authority come from? Total obedience to the commands of Jesus Christ. Go and teach them what I have commanded you. That is the key to authority. It's total surrender to His authority. His authority comes upon you as you obey and surrender to Him. Praise God. So turn to the person beside you and say, "Just do as you are told."

At the end of the day, Jesus can do it, even if a person is demonised or struggling with sin. If a person in trouble calls out to Jesus or uses Jesus' name to cast out a demon, I believe that God can save them. If they confess the sin, or rebuke the demon and they really mean it then that helps massively. But godliness and holiness and lots of faith and walking in the ways of the Lord in obedience all help a huge amount in deliverance and helping others be delivered. If you love the same sin another person is dealing with then there seems to be far more resistance to turning others away from it:

I Corinthians 9:27 - But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (ESV)

Luke 6:42 - How can you say to your brother, Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye, when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:21 - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (ESV)

Acts 3:12 - And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? (KJV)

Matthew 7:2 - For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. (ESV)

Jesus is preparing us to be able to stand before Father God blamelessly. Now blameless is an interesting word. It shows that while we might fall short, God sees everything, and is going to bring us to the point where we can stand before Him with hearts that are blameless in holiness:

I Thessalonians 3:11-13 - Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and **may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all**, as we do for you, **so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father**, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (ESV)

An established heart is one which has been put on the right track:

II Thessalonians 2:16-17 - Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. (ESV)

For reassurance, we should be practicing love:

I John 3:18-19 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; (ESV)

I Thessalonians 3:13 - so that he may establish (G4741 stérízo: To establish, strengthen, fix, set firmly) your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (ESV)

An established heart is one which has become **dedicated**:

I Corinthians 7:37 - But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. (ESV)

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

This blamelessness involves approving of what is right/excellent. So if we still have issues, but confess our sin, and we know what is right, and know we still need God's grace and are still holding to our confession of faith in Jesus (and I am still holding to it), and haven't turned away from Jesus, I think we might still be in a position of blamelessness. I think it's looks like a transformed life, transformed into Christ's love, keep His commandments, and agreeing with God and walking in the light, walking in the love of the truth, and as we do that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. So there's justification first which is the breastplate of faith and love, loving the truth, and there is sanctification which is being cleaned up:

Philippians 1:9-11 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may **approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ**, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:9-11 - And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may **approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;** Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. (KJV)

I believe that blamelessness involves not being deceitful. We must be cleaned up to no longer be deceitful. We should then lean on God's Word because His word is reliable:

Psalms 32:2 - Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (ESV)

Revelation of John 14:4-5 - It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and **in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.** (ESV)

Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (ESV)

Our relationship with God is based on our purity, not just our forgiveness:

II Corinthians 6:16-18 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, **and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.** (ESV)

Father God is pleased with showing love for people, especially those who the world neglects. Father God is pleased when we keep ourselves unstained from the world, and not in love with the world and not in love with the lusts of the world. We should have agape love for people (treasuring people) and no agape for the world:

James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled (283. *amiantos*) before God, the Father, is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.** (ESV)

Being 'philos with (friends with, allured by, attracted to)', money , self, pleasure, rather than ((G3123 *mallon*: rather [Adv])) being allured by God (wanting to be around God) is bad. But we should avoid those who are attracted to such things rather than/instead of God. We want to be attracted to God, and certainly must be attracted to God moreso than by pleasure, money, self, etc. And we are instructed to avoid such people who are drawn to such things in preference to God. We are to avoid enemies of God:

II Timothy 3:1-5 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self (G5367 *philautoi*: lovers of self [Adj-NMP]), lovers of money (G5366 *philargyroi*: lovers of money [Adj-NMP]), proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good (G865 *aphilagathoi*: without love of good [Adj-NMP]), treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure (G5369 *philēdonoi*: lovers of pleasure [Adj-NMP]) rather than (G3123 *mallon*: rather [Adv]) lovers of God (G5377 *philotheoi*: lovers of God [Adj-NMP]), having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (ESV)

James 4:4 - You *adulterous* people! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

This morning (<2024-09-14 Sat>) I had this running through my head during my sleep and as I was waking up - I love it when God does that. I feel much cleaner today. This morning <2024-09-18 Wed> (4 days later) I was hit with some spiritual attack (including strange dreams) so I purposefully stayed up singing this song in my heart and mind and as I did, trying to 'will from the heart' to desire to do God's will and I was able to beat the spiritual attack back this morning :):

[youtube.com: Purify My Heart {Refiner's Fire} | Jeremy Riddle - Worship Moment](#) Purify my heart.

Let me be as gold and precious silver. Purify my heart. Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire, My heart's one desire is to be holy, set apart for You, Lord. I choose to be holy, set apart for You, my Master, ready to do Your will

Sermon youtube.com: Unstained from the World: The Battle for Purity - Tim Conway

To let go and let God purify us is generally incorrect. The Bible teaches that **we** should cleanse our hearts, and it also teaches that God will cleanse our heart. I like the phrase "let go of darkness and trust God" more. See: youtube.com: Billy Graham Messages 2024 | LET GO & TRUST GOD:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

Zephaniah 3:2 - She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God. (ESV)

Acts 15:9 - and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Christ is reigning until all things are subjected to Him. We must come under the Lordship of Christ Jesus. I consider any so-called god which is in rebellion to Christ to be a demon:

I Corinthians 15:25-28 - For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For God has put all things in subjection under his feet. But when it says, all things are put in subjection, it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. (ESV)

Luke 4:8 - And Jesus answered him, It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

Daniel 7:13-14 - I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that **all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him;** his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper So if I were to put a title on this message it would be "No neutrality. [There is] nothing in-between for and against (i.e. there are only two options: for and against) - No neutrality. If you're not for Him, [then] Jesus says you're against Him.

And I can imagine a person coming into this room and saying, "I'm not against Jesus. I don't even think about Jesus most of the time."

To which I would respond, "You need to think about what you just said, because to be against Jesus is to be against his purpose for your life, and his purpose for your life does not mean you should spend 99% of your time not thinking about him. That's not his purpose"

We have no other Lord, King, no other Master than Jesus Christ, but we serve Jesus in serving each other:

Matthew 23:8-11 - But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor (2519. *kathégétés*), the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. (ESV)

Matthew 12:28-30 - But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. **Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.** (ESV)

II Corinthians 4:5 - For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but **Jesus Christ as Lord**, with **ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.** (ESV)

We don't worship foreign gods. We don't worship other servants of God, angels or demons. We worship Jehovah God, and most Christians worship Jesus Christ as God the Son, reigning as God with His Father - that's totally all good:

Revelation of John 22:8-9 - I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God. (ESV)

John 4:21-26 - Jesus said to her, Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when **the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. The woman said to him, I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things. Jesus said to her, I who speak to you am he. (ESV)

In Christ Jesus, we can worship Father God in Spirit and in Truth. We In Christ Jesus, we can worship Father God in reality, the way Father God desires us to worship Him:

John 4:23-24 - But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (ESV)

And we can worship Christ, the Son of God in Spirit and in Truth as well because Jesus Christ is also God, the Son of God:

youtube.com: Jesus Lover of My Soul {worship video w/ lyrics} {@pastorloran} Jesus, lover of my soul, Jesus, I will never let you go. You've taken me from the miry clay and set my feed upon the Rock and now I know I love You. I need You. Though my world may fall, I'll never let You go. My Savior, my closest friend, I will worship You until the very end.

John 10:30 - I and the Father are one. (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:8-9 - I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God. (ESV)

Hebrews 1:6 - And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, Let all God's angels worship him. (ESV)

John 20:28 - Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! (ESV)

youtube.com: Jesus Generation: A "California Will Be Saved" Revival Campaign {@cawillbesaved} There's a window. You feel it. I feel it. A window of time to swing the pendulum in our nation from rebellion to revival. Young people are coming to Jesus in ways we haven't seen in decades. Could we be stepping into

a third great awakening in America? Throughout the last four years, we have taken a bold stance through worship and proclamation, opposing the enemy's plan to corrupt our generation. We have witnessed God save hundreds of lives, bring healing to families, restore purpose to dormant hearts, and free those in bondage. But we sense that there is still a bigger wave of his spirit coming to California and America. We got to be doers of the word. How do we do it? It's simple. When Jesus is enthroned, false gods are dethroned.

I'm trying to side with Jesus over issues regarding the evil which is still present in the world and "hate the sin (**Revelation of John 2:6**), not the sinner (**Ezekiel 18:23**)" but rather mourn for them (**I Corinthians 5:1-13**, **II Corinthians 12:21**), and starting by first taking a look at my own problems but by no means endorsing sinful things even things I consider I do which are sinful, I don't endorse them for myself either:

John 7:6-8 - Jesus said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:6 - Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (ESV)

What's imperative is that we have agape-love for our family in Christ:

I John 4:20 - If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (ESV)

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

Where loving your family in Christ (the children of God) is absolutely mandatory, the same level of commitment to "do good" is not given to those who are in opposition to God:

Psalms 139:19-24 - Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain! Do I not hate (H6962. quwt, loathe) those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (ESV)

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

Mark 9:40 - For the one who is not against us is for us. (ESV)

God will judge those that continue practicing wickedness loving evil:

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor **among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Psalms 82:1-8 - God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: A Psalm of Asaph. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince. Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations! (ESV)

youtube.com: Deuteronomy 32 World View - There are Principalities That Rule over Nations @time: 17

Here's just one observation from **I John 3** and **John 1**. You go back in the Old Testament. Who are the holy ones?

Overwhelmingly, like 98% of the time, it's members of the heavenly host, the Divine Council. In the New Testament, holy ones, your English Bible will have 'saints'. That title is never used of the heavenly host, the angels, it's only used of you - of believers. Why the switch? Because we are the new sons and daughters of God. We are going to replace what was lost in all these rebellions both on Earth and ultimately in heaven, or the new Earth, the new Eden. You go to **Hebrews 2** where this is the passage where Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers, siblings. Where does that scene take place? If go read the passage? Before the congregation. Before the council. It's right there in the text. Paul in **1 Corinthians 6** tells the Corinthians who are basically doing everything wrong, he says "Look, will you stop taking each other to court. Don't you know that you're going to rule or judge angels.

What it means is: How are we going to judge angels? If you keep reading **Revelation 2**, **Revelation 3**, in the new Eden we are put over the nations. To him that overcomes I will put him over the nations. To the one that overcomes I will let him sit on my throne and rule the nations. Who rules the nations now? The fallen gods, the principalities, the powers the rebellious sons of God. Who gets to replace them? Who judges them? Who will ultimately rule over them and displace and replace them? That would be us. This is not a throwaway line in Paul.

Quote from Mari Mari Emmanuel So fear nothing, love everyone, but be firm when it comes to speaking the truth. Truth cannot be compromised. It cannot be sold.

God's way is best. We should learn what God wants of us:

Proverbs 1:28-31 - Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. (ESV)

We are not seeking to please those who of the world. We are not seeking to please God-haters. God-haters might congratulate someone on denying being a disciple of Christ. God-haters might say you did the right thing by ignoring your family in Christ's needs.

We have to love our family in Christ especially, even called to lay down our own lives for our family in Christ, as Jesus did for us. That's the type of love we **must** have for one another in Christ. In Christ we are united in the truth and in agape love. True, selfless, agape love which loves Jesus our family in Christ in the truth:

I John 3:13-16 - Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (ESV)

I John 3:15-21 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (ESV)

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.** (ESV)

John 15:18-19 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (ESV)

Amen youtube.com youtube.com: Day 9: Repent New York City | Phillip Blair

I agree whole heartedly with Keith Green here:

- youtube.com: Keith Green 1978 : Make My Life A Prayer to You {live}

I agree whole heartedly also with MP Nick Fletcher:

- youtube.com: Christian MP: "A life in Christ is the most wonderful thing"

I agree whole heartedly with John Piper in these videos. I've been watching some sermons from Desiring God:

- youtube.com: The Blazing Center by John Piper
- youtube.com: God's Delight in Obedience
- youtube.com: His Voice in Yours: How Christ Wins the World
- youtube.com: God is the Gospel
- youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit @time: 48 min 13 sec

– AMEN!!

I agree whole-heartedly with David Mathis also:

- youtube.com: What Is It Like to 'Know Christ'?
- youtube.com: Work Out What Christ Has Won: The Christian Life as Gift and Duty

Evangelist Philip's preaching is very faithful to the gospel of Jesus and very down-to-earth:

- youtube.com: You can't climb out of the pit all by yourself | Jacksonville, FL preaching {@TorchofChristMinistries}

I affirm this man's message:

- youtube.com: The most eloquent, well spoken street preacher I've ever heard! | Preaching Times Square, NYC

I appreciated hearing about Tucker Carlson's journey here and I also appreciate Living Waters' very straight-forward gospel message:

- youtube.com: Recent Demon Attack Leads Tucker Carlson to CHRIST?
- youtube.com: Tucker Says Supernatural Beings Are Taking Physical Form. Here's What He Means.

This video has so much amazing content. I'm feeling much better today as I've been listening and it led me to this this prayer and I feel so much better after amening after reading it! Also I love Tucker Carlson's faith journey with Jesus! Seems to have come really far in his faith!:

- youtube.com: Bishop Barron: The Reality of Demons, How to Fight Them With Prayer, & Debunking the New Atheists {@TuckerCarlson}

Acknowledgement To be able to have affection for God and treasure God, and have a desire for God is such a gift.... Thank you John Piper for helping me to see that, and lead me into that truth... It makes so much sense in hindsight. Nothing in this world could replace the gift of being able to know God Himself and have an affectionate, treasuring, obedient, believing, desiring love for God.

Where we used to be disobedient, we are brought into obedience, accepting the gospel, and as we are sanctified by continued obedience to Jesus Christ, we have the hope of eternal life:

Titus 3:3-7 - For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that **being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.** (ESV)

I Peter 1:2 - according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (ESV)

Titus 1:1-4 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their **knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life,** which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. (ESV)

Romans 6:2-3 - By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (ESV)

Mark 1:8 - I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Acts 1:5 - for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. (ESV)

Romans 6:17-17 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, (ESV)

Sanctification **is** the salvation: We are sanctified while having faith in the Truth. This sanctification **is** the salvation. We are saved through sanctification and faith. This sanctification is sanctification of the heart and soul:

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be **saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.** (ESV)

By faith in Jesus we are justified and saved through sanctification while holding faith in Jesus. This justification by faith is required for us to continue being sanctified. We're saved through sanctification:

Romans 5:9-10 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (ESV)

The type of faith we need is loving the truth, (i.e. loving Jesus, God's Word). The type of faith we need is faith which loves our family in Christ:

James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a **brother or sister** is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (ESV)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

A person with a heart with the right faith, one that loves the Truth, will produce the right fruit:

Matthew 12:33-35 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. (ESV)

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

Obeying sin leads to death, but we are sanctified to instead serve God:

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

I John 2:23-29 - No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. **If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.** I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

We have family in the Lord which is different to our family of the flesh:

Philemon 1:15-16 - For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. (ESV)

Romans 9:3 - For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. (ESV)

We are family in Christ through abiding in Jesus' commandments, having faith in Jesus and agape loving one another as He commanded:

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, **strengthen your brothers.** (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

We are brought to the point where we do not hate our family in Christ (i.e. God is sanctifying us, and at the end of this sanctification is eternal life):

I John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

Which commandments must we keep? Jesus' commandments - Jesus' sayings and commandments which Father God commanded Him to speak. Also, it's worth learning from the Apostles who were with Jesus. Some commandments of Jesus are divulged and better understood from their writings.

Jesus kept Father God's commandments including the commandment of what to say and speak to us. Jesus' words and sayings and commandments which God gave Him to speak to us are what we should keep. His commandments are eternal life for us:

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

Jesus Christ (God the Son) is commanded to give eternal life to those who Father God has given Him:

John 17:1-3 - When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

From infants in Christ to maturity, people who keep Jesus' commandments are found in Christ who is in God:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:1-5 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (ESV)

To be sure that we are in Christ, we should be abiding in Jesus' teachings and practicing Jesus' commandments and such a person ought to be walk in the same way Jesus walked:

I John 2:4-6 - Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

If anyone agape loves Jesus Christ, they agape love the Word of God, agape-loves the Truth, he will keep the Word of God's words. God's word is Truth. The sum of God's word is the Truth. When the Bible mentions "keeping" Jesus' word (**I John 2:4-6**), it's really stressing not only holding onto/being mindful of his word but doing His word:

John 14:23 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (ESV)

Yes, we have faith, confess Jesus to others, and hold the faith, but we also progress into sanctification through faith in Jesus and obedience to Jesus, with Him as our first agape love:

Matthew 10:32-38 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

God has loved us. Jesus has loved us. Now we must love Him back, keeping His commandments, loving Him and one-another:

I John 4:6-19 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that **he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins**. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because **he first loved us.** (ESV)

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, **who loved me** and gave himself for me. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Because God loved us *first*:

- The Apostle Paul endeavours to know Jesus ('makes it his own'. See **Php 3:9-13**) *because Jesus made Paul His own*
 - To be found in Jesus **is** what Paul describes as the righteousness from God that depends on faith

* **Philippians 3:8-12** - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

* **I Thessalonians 5:8** - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

- * **I John 3:23-24** - And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)
 - * **Ephesians 6:14** - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness,** (ESV)
 - * **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce **the righteousness that God requires.** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)
 - We know Jesus by believing in Him and obeying His commandments, and when we love and forgive we know *God loved us and forgave us first*
 - * **I John 2:3-6** - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
 - We must love because *He loved us first* for God to abide in us
 - **Romans 5:7-8** - For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)
 - **I John 4:9-12** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)
 - We must forgive as we have been forgiven
 - **Colossians 3:12-14** - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)
 - We must be conformed to holiness
 - **I Peter 1:14-16** - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. (ESV)
- Children of God:
- Do not make a practice of sinning
 - Love their family in Christ
 - Practices righteousness

Children of the Kingdom of God purify themselves, but children of the devil do not. The children of the devil are the weeds (they affirm (**Psalms 52:1-5**) rather than forsake sin). We must be cleaned by obedience to the Truth for a sincere love of our family in Christ that we may see Him. At the end of sanctification is having eternal life and not being able to lose that eternal life and the salvation of our souls. The "one born of God" (the new creation self) keeps himself (is mindful for obedience to God) and the devil does not harm him (**I John 5:18**, **Proverbs 16:7**, **Psalms 115:11**):

I John 3:1-11 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

It's evident that if we're not obedient to in some area, for example, if we're committing willful sin or not agape loving our family in Christ then it's possible for the devil to "outwit us". I think that's the case because the person who hates their family in Christ walks in darkness. True faith in Jesus Christ agape loves the Truth and continue to abide in Christ's teachings:

II Corinthians 2:9-11 - For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (ESV)

Justification works together with salvation. A person is able to be saved if they are justified. So we need that heart which loves the truth:

Romans 10:10 - For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

The faith that saves is the faith that agape loves (treasures) the truth of God:

II Thessalonians 2:9-12 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to **love the truth and so be saved.** Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not **believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (ESV)

Justification is a state of righteousness which we don't commend ourselves for (God commends people for their faith), but which is dependent on us having faith in the truth and dependent on us having love for the truth. True agape love is for the truth (the light). True faith agape loves the truth (the light). A demonic love is for the darkness (for sin. see John 3:19). A demonic faith is a hatred of the truth, and though a demon might know who Jesus is, would not want to be around Him (Mark 5:7). We must remain in the love of the truth (walk in the light) to remain able to receive sanctification by the blood of Jesus Christ. We must **want** to be healed (John 5:6) to have purified consciences (Hebrews 9:13-15) to serve God:

Hebrews 11:1-2 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that **depends on faith** — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 12:13 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

As more evidence that justification is a state of righteousness which we don't commend ourselves for (God commends people for their faith), Jesus talks about those who humble themselves. The tax collector here remained in a place of knowing they **still** need mercy from God. So I have an issue with those who treat justification through faith in Jesus' blood as though now they cannot do any wrong, nor need to continue seeking to please God, nor need to forsake sin, nor need to keep Jesus' commandments because such assumptions are prideful. Similarly, the Pharisees described here also didn't remain humble. But humility continue to endeavour to be commended by God:

Luke 18:9-14 - He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Whole of the Christian Life Is Repentance {@ligonier} Most of you know the story of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. The first of those theses was this: When our Lord Jesus said 'repent', He meant that the whole of the Christian life should be repentance.

Who heard somebody say, "Well, I repented, you know, 20 years ago, 30 years ago, 10 years ago. It's done and dusted." No, it's not done and dusted for Jesus. It is the whole of the Christian life. This transformation, this newness, this difference that is the Christian life takes place only when we find ourselves bowing down to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ongoing repentance, I believe, means continuing on in preferring God to sin (we love God (G3123 mallon, rather/more than, in preference to, instead of) than evil). And the most core issue we need to confess (G3670 homologeo: i.e. speak the same thing as God about) is that Jesus Christ is God's Son (perfectly obedient, monogenes Son).

I John 4:15-16 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

If God made a very important judgement that affects the whole of humanity then we better be in agreement with it:

Romans 1:4 - and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, (ESV)

If a person agrees with Holy Spirit that Father God was just in justifying Jesus and raising Him from the dead for His perfect obedience to Father God while we were yet sinners (i.e. God loved us first before we loved Him), for fulfilling the entire Law and the prophets, for being good as Father God is also good, for practicing perfect righteousness, then that is a very righteous agreement a person is making in agreeing with God over it.

Confessing that, we have access to propitiation:

I John 2:1-6 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. **But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.** And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

It's **prideful** to think that a person does not need to continue on in faith and abide in Jesus Christ's teachings including confessing and forsaking sin after coming to have faith in His blood:

Romans 11:20-25 - That is true. **They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.** Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (ESV)

Matthew 18:21-35 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, Pay what you owe. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you. He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his

fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, **You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.** (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. (engbsb2020eb)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (ESV)

Commendation from God certainly involves "endeavouring", even if it's a "faith alone" endeavouring. We don't commend ourselves. We seek to do what God has required of us: Have faith in Him and love one another as commanded (I John 3:23-24):

Genesis 4:7 - If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it. (ESV)

Romans 6:11-12 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. (ESV)

Galatians 2:17-21 - But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. (ESV)

We should not turn away from humility, but remain humble before God with respect to commendation, even if it's commendation for having faith in Jesus's blood, and be obedient to God, endeavouring to keep the commandments God has given to us:

Hebrews 10:37-39 - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:20-24 - The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die. (ESV)

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

We must rule over sin. I believe that as Christians we're still supposed to do this. And God has given us the power win the fight:

Genesis 4:7 - If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it. (ESV)

Romans 6:11-12 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. (ESV)

Romans 7:20-22 - Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right (John 5:6, we must want to), evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

We must have desires that are the desires of the Spirit and set our minds on the things of the Spirit:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Romans 8:5-6 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (ESV)

Galatians 5:16-17 - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (ESV)

Romans 7:18 - For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (ESV)

Romans 13:14 - But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

I Peter 3:10 - For Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; (ESV)

II Timothy 3:12-13 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (ESV)

Colossians 3:5 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (ESV)

Galatians 5:24 - And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (ESV)

The patience of the Lord Jesus in saving us while we hold our faith in Him for eternal life involves repentance from sin:

II Peter 3:15 - And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:21 - I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:16 - But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. (ESV)

Romans 2:4 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (ESV)

I Peter 3:18-20 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. (ESV)

II Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (ESV)

So we should repent and come to love and trust (treasure and trust in, cling/cleave/adhere to and hope in) God and hate (forsake and distrust) sin and desire God in our minds and hearts and trust in, cling/cleave/adhere to God's promises, and **keep** doing that so that we are counted with the wheat and not the tares:

II Peter 3:9-13 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (ESV)

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (ESV)

Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (ESV)

We need to have escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. We need to be producers of good fruit:

II Peter 1:3-8 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to **supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.** For if **these qualities are yours and are increasing**, they keep you from being ineffective or **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Luke 3:8-9 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (ESV)

Matthew 7:16-23 - You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. **Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.** Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:12 - Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. (ESV)

We must love our family in Christ:

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

Good deeds come out of sincerely obeying Jesus Christ out of faith in Him. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us and He commanded us to love our family in Christ as a must. We must love our family in Christ. The deeds will come from a genuine love from the heart:

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:12 - Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. (ESV)

It's got to be a genuine apostle love in the heart where there is a "desire" to love which, if true (I John 3:14-20), should translate into action to see the needs of family in Christ and neighbours being met. I find it very difficult to believe that a genuine love of God abides in a person who closes their heart against other family in Christ who **need** help in order to, say, overcome obstacles they have to living in a way that is pleasing to God. If there is someone, particularly a brother in Christ, in need of the world's goods who is genuinely with the fear of God, wanting to live a godly life but struggling, because, for example, the devil has been pillaging and plundering and destroying and making things difficult for that person, and Christians turn a blind eye to that person, then a genuine saving faith and love for God probably does not even abide in those so-called Christians who knowingly turned the blind eye:

II Corinthians 8:8-11 - I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that **your love also is genuine.** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. (ESV)

II Chronicles 19:2 - But Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD. (ESV)

Keep in mind that if Jesus is in that person and you don't really love them, then you could at the very least use further sanctification and at the worst don't love Jesus:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

All of us have a duty to keep God's commandments for us, (notably Christ's commandments). The strong [of faith, of obedience, at keeping God's commandments] are obligated to bear with the failings of those who are weak [of faith, of obedience, at keeping God's commandments]. So we should be supporting one another to live in a way that is pleasing to God:

Romans 15:1-4 - We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me. For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (ESV)

Romans 13:8-10 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Let's just say there is a person who used to work in a drug cartel and they get born-again and they repent from their sin, and they want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus, but nobody will hire them for a job, say, because of their past, or because of a criminal conviction, and they're being pressured into going back into their criminal way of life because it's the only way they can get money to survive. As Christians, we don't want to be complicit with the devil in pushing this person back into a life of crime, so we should be supporting them to live a godly life in Christ, supporting them to walk in holiness. We must love our family in Christ. We must be the good Samaritan to our family in Christ.

Christians are not commanded to support each other to sin.

The Samaritan here proved to be a neighbour. We **must** be supporting our family in Christ in their endeavour to live pleasing to God. Are Christians compelled to give to secular charities and to people who are against Jesus? Firstly, Christians are not compelled to give but are instructed to give willfully. Secondly, we can prove to be a neighbour to people who we may help. But if they're not our neighbour, then it's not our duty. But we can prove to be a neighbour and if we prove to be a neighbour then it's our duty to agape-love/value/treasure our neighbours. Christians are duty-bound to love fellow Christians and whoever else is their neighbour:

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance

a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, You go, and do likewise. (ESV)

II Corinthians 9:7 - Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (ESV)

No joke, we **must** take care of our family in Christ who are in need. It's mandatory. Be the good Samaritan to our family in Christ when they need our help. If a person knows what good he ought to do and doesn't do it then for that person it is sin. If we are to love in truth then when we know what good we ought to do, we should then be doing it:

James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a **brother or sister** is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

We ought to be supporting one another walk in the truth and work for the truth:

III John 1:4-8 - I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. (ESV)

I think Jesus wants us to "prove to be a neighbour to others", to show **mercy** to others, even for the sole reason that they're a fellow human being, without necessarily knowing anything else about them, particularly people who have been afflicted by evil (in this case, robbed, beaten and left for dead):

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, You go, and do likewise. (ESV)

We are able to have faith and love for Jesus Christ even before having seen him. Our souls are saved while holding faith and agape love for Jesus Christ. But it's very important to put a stop to willful sin that we may come to know Jesus and arrive at rest in Him:

I Peter 1:8-9 - Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

According to Justin Martyr, we need to have come to "know" Jesus, and according to the Apostle John, that means we need to have put a stop to willful sin to have arrived at rest in Him. So we find rest at the end of sanctification, or at some point in that process of sanctification where we stop committing wilful sin:

I John 3:5-6 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him.

And in light of what Jesus said here, it's also important to stop committing sin, because if someone willfully commits sin then that means means that sin in their master. Rather, our will should be to do Father God's desires, to do what pleases God. We should trust and obey God, and trust and obey God from our heart, desiring to please God:

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 *pepisteukotas*: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

According to Jude this willful sinning is like denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ:

Jude 1:4 - For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (NASB)

In a very real way, Jesus leads us by example. He cleans us up, and we are suppose to go on seeking to please God, and helping others come to the obedience of faith in Christ Jesus:

John 8:29 - And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him. (ESV)

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

Justin Martyr says, "Wherefore those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him.":

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}

And God, the Father of the universe, who is the perfect intelligence, is the truth. And the Word, being His Son, came to us, having put on flesh, revealing both Himself and the Father, giving to us in Himself resurrection from the dead, and eternal life afterwards. And this is Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. He, therefore, is Himself both the faith and the proof of Himself and of all things. Wherefore **those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him**. But since the adversary does not cease to resist many, and uses many and divers arts to ensnare them, that he may *seduce the faithful from their faith, and that he may prevent the faithless from believing, it seems to me necessary that we also, being armed with the invulnerable doctrines of the faith, do battle against him in behalf of the weak.*

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (ESV)

youtube.com: Chris Tomlin - I Will Follow {@ChrisTomlinVEVO} Who You love, I'll love; How You serve I'll serve; If this life I lose, I will follow You; I will follow You

Believing in Jesus Christ, that is with true faith, faith which loves the truth, we have the right to become children of God. We are given the right to be sanctified, delivered from sin, to be able to love our family in Christ and practice righteousness:

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

This right is not for everyone, but only for those who receive Jesus Christ, who God has given Jesus Christ:

John 17:9 - I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. (ESV)

John 17:8 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. (ESV)

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

Even Simon the magician believed and was baptised but it is evident that even the Apostle Peter recognised that Simon might perish. As far as I can tell Simon had not yet received Holy Spirit. His heart still wasn't right. Just like Simon, we must receive the love of the truth in our heart to be saved. Simon was instructed to **repent from sin**. While true agape love is the bond of perfection, I think the bond of iniquity might mean a love of darkness. Simon had to relinquish his sinful desire. Likewise, the rich young ruler (in Mark 10:17-27) had a love of worldly possessions. We need to agape love the truth and fall out of love of darkness. Even as believers, we need to continue on in the teachings of Christ to be saved:

Acts 8:13-23 - Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him, May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! **You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent**, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in **the bond of iniquity**. (ESV)

Jesus' words are true. As I understand it, probably Simon Magus "had" salvation when he believed and was baptised but salvation is a process and as Jesus says, the devil steals the word from a person's heart so that they do not believe. So a person must continue in true faith. As I currently understand it, we also must not "fall away". We must endure in our faith. Simon Magus needed to repent from sin to receive Holy Spirit and in order to continue on in true justifying faith in Jesus, as I understand it:

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Jesus said to these believers that if they abide in His word (and I believe that means keep His word, even in obedience), they are His disciples - so a person can be a believer before they are a disciple. But we're supposed to make this transition:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

youtube.com: Post from Ruben Solorzano Hulk Hogan has passed away at 71. Here is a picture of him getting baptized only a year ago, which he said was "the greatest day of his life." He said, "Knowing of Jesus and knowing Him are two different things. Come to Him, He'll clean you up. He's the only thing that really matters." Our prayers are with his family.

I believe that Simon the magician after initially believing the gospel and being baptised needed to continue in obedience to God, continue trusting in Jesus, turn away from wickedness, purify his heart, draw near to God and receive Holy Spirit and be sanctified. We're instructed to "draw near to God through Jesus Christ" to be saved:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:23-28 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

I think this reads that we are set free from everything which the law of Moses condemns as sin. So we become able to put the sin to death:

Acts 13:38-39 - Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:13-15 - For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that **redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.** (ESV)

Romans 1:29-32 - They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV)

The law of Moses certainly does not condemn the fruit of the Spirit. And neither should we:

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)

I still believe that faith alone in the heart justifies (Romans 10:8-13), however faith in Jesus, I believe, continues trusting Him even with respect to His words, and continues abiding in His teachings (II John 1:9-10) and this faith agape loves, treasures Jesus and His words.

I think we're not supposed to believe in vain (I Corinthians 15:1-2), though, but continue in faith in Jesus and hold fast (Hebrews 3:1-6) to the gospel and be transformed by His grace to put sin to death, the fruit (Hebrews 12:11, Luke 8:15) we get leads to sanctification (I Peter 1:22) and at the end of sanctification, eternal life (Romans 6:22-23). And I believe that that faith in the heart which justifies will produce good deeds (John 14:12). I also believe in being justified by works (James 2:21-25) whilst having been justified by faith, just as Abraham was. I believe that the justifying faith 'alone' finds its fulfillment in being completed by works, as James says. Even the penitent criminal on the cross across from Jesus I'd say therefore would have had justification by faith completed by his works:

James 2:21-25 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness** — and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (ESV)

We must continue to abide in Jesus' word. We must continue on in faith in Jesus, in His word. These Jews "had" (past tense) believed in Jesus but they needed to go on abiding in Jesus' word to be free from sin, and Jesus promised that if they abide in His word then they are **truly** His disciples, and will come to know the truth and be set free from sin. Jesus lets these "believers" in him know that if they were "of God" then they would "love" him. We have to hear, receive, believe and treasure Jesus Christ and His words. Our faith must be one which loves the truth:

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because

I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

It's so important to continue holding our faith in Jesus Christ, to continue trusting in Jesus Christ, to continue abiding in Jesus' word:

John 3:16 (Interlinear) Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó - value, treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs - unique, only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina - in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

I John 4:9-12 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

Because justification by faith in the blood of Jesus is by grace, it's not on the basis of works. But obedience doesn't mean "works" strictly. Obedience means more like "willing to work", or "actually doing" where the doing is a heart thing, so that means repentance, too, or a change of heart can be obedience and not "works":

Romans 10:8-10 - But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

Romans 11:5-6 - So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. (ESV)

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

1 Samuel 16:7 - But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart. (ESV)

OK, but is justification by works possible? Yes it is. So how to put this... through faith alone in Jesus Christ, in the blood of Jesus Christ, we are able to call ourselves children of God and everyone who does so purifies himself as Jesus Christ is pure, and Jesus Christ's blood washes those who walk in the light with the love of the truth and Jesus empowers us to make spiritual sacrifices that are pleasing to God through faith in Him (Jesus Christ) and Jesus empowers us to fulfill the requirement of the law and all Christians should strive by faith, obediently to Jesus Christ to have the requirement of the law fulfilled in us. I believe that justification by works (James 2:21-25) is contingent on justification by faith. So whilst we can be justified by works (Gen 22:16-18, James 2:21, James 2:25, Hebrews 11:31), it can't be while denying that we ourselves first needed forgiveness from God through faith in Jesus Christ because then that would be not submitting to God's righteousness (**Romans 10:3**). So even justification by works happens by God's grace:

Romans 4:23-25 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

The Greek says says, "law came in" to increase the trespass. It doesn't say "The Law came in". Jesus Hismelf brought commandments:

Romans 5:18-21 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

In Jesus' flesh the dividing wall of hostility has been broken down. Being part of Jesus' body now, our earthly "body of death", the body of sin, has been condemned, but our spirit is alive due to righteousness. So we are reconciled to God, even while we have a "'sinful' body of death" because our spirits have been reconciled.

II Corinthians 4:16 - So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. (ESV)

Now that earthly body of death must still die an earthly death that we might receive our resurrection body.

I Corinthians 15:42 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. (ESV)

So the wages of sin is death so that means that the earthly body will die but in our hearts with our new spirits we love, trust and obey Jesus Christ, and remain faithful to Him even though there is a spiritual battle, there is a battle with the flesh.

In Jesus' flesh (Jesus' earthly legacy including His commandments and teachings, His passion and death and resurrection), the "law of commandments and ordinances", that is from the Mosaic Law, is abolished, but it's in Jesus' flesh, which we must eat of (John 6:51-52), and we must abide in Jesus' (John 6:56), so we must be keeping Jesus' Christ's commandments and walking in the truth, in the love of the truth, not contradicting Jesus, but continuing to abide in Jesus' teachings in order to continue abiding in Jesus (John 15:10). So when it says the "law of commandments and ordinances" has been abolished in Jesus' flesh, well we must be abiding in Jesus' Christ's commandments in order to have the freedom (Galatians 5:6-26). We must have faith working through love, keeping the commandments of God, to have faith in Jesus Christ and love one another as commanded, the breastplate of faith and love:

Ephesians 2:14-16 - For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

So we must be keeping Jesus Christ's commandments to "abide in Him" and to have the blessing of the freedom that is to be had in Christ Jesus. So it's definitely not an abolition of law in a sweeping sense. But we must be keeping Jesus Christ's law and He is the telos of the Law (who the Mosaic Law was a schoolmaster to guide us to):

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

John 6:63-65 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father. (ESV)

Eph 2:14-16 connects to the verse, our body died due to sin, but the spirit is life due to righteousness:

Romans 8:10 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (ESV)

The death that we died is linked to now having a "body of death" because sin in the flesh is condemned.

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

I don't see how a person could be "justified" without an agape love of the truth in the heart.

Could God "justify by works" apart from, say, hearing the gospel? Let's say Gentiles who fear God and are doers of the Law of God (that is, they are exercising law-abiding love, see: **Galatians 5:14**) and they, say, sacrificially laid down their life for another, say. Is that possible? And I do recognise that even if they were doers of the law, we do all fall short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:21-31**). But the point I make is, God is judges those outside the church (I Corinthians 5:4-13). I believe that the Apostle Paul's words in **Romans 2:5-11** apply to Christians and potentially people outside the church, but God is the judge:

Romans 2:13 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. (ESV)

For example, if someone, say, laid down their life for someone else who hated them, and did so out of fear of God and out of a heart of love for God and their neighbour, how does God deal with people, who say, haven't heard about Jesus? That stuff is totally God's jurisdiction (because God is the judge of those 'outside' the church: I Corinthians 5:12-13).

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

I Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

John 12:25 - Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (ESV)

Also, justification by faith in Jesus Christ enables us to be sanctified (cleaned up, I Thessalonians 4:3-8) by the blood of Jesus.

The Bible's very clear that none of us mere humans has been without sin. So we all need God's grace ultimately to be saved from sin and death and hell. So what we'd be talking about is an imperfect sinner who laid down their life for someone else who hated them, and did so out of fear of God and out of a heart of love for God and their neighbour and God who sees everything saw this. Can a person be "justified by works" in that way, and what would be the implications of that?

Firstly, I believe it's not possible for a person to be justified if they reject Jesus. So the agape love must be in the truth. Christ-denying "agape" love is not real agape love at all.

And if by being justified means "can receive sanctification" then can a person be "justified by works" and saved by their works if they have not rejected Christ? That stuff is all God's jurisdiction.

Romans 3:9-12 - What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. (ESV)

Mark 7:27-29 - And he said to her, Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs. But she answered him, Yes, Lord; **yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.** And he said to her, For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.

OK, so we know that God is the Saviour of all people, even of those who have not heard to believe the gospel.

I Timothy 4:10 - For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (ESV)

Matthew 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (ESV)

So could God "justify by works" apart from, say, hearing the gospel? Speculating if it were even possible, I would think that it would require a heart which loves the truth, and therefore would be receptive to receiving more of the truth, and would believe, trust in, believe in, receive and love Jesus Christ, and receive Jesus' words.

John 6:45 - It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. **Everyone** who has heard **and learned** from the Father comes to me— (ESV)

And then the whole "justification by works" is about works, so those works would have to be doing what was required of them, what Jesus Christ has commanded, even if they hadn't heard the gospel.

I believe all people are given an opportunity at some stage in one way or another to put their faith in Jesus:

Revelation of John 7:9 - After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from **every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Every Nation Tribe And Tongue Music Video Cada Nacion, Cada Lengua Adoracion

People still have to put their trust in Jesus when the testimony of Jesus comes their way / when Jesus is made apparent to them.

John 12:31-32 - Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (ESV)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

John 15:22-24 - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but **now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also.** If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but **now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.** (ESV)

John 8:47 - Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

Our whole duty as human beings is to fear God and keep His commandments. God will command/justify the person who does this.

We're commanded to have faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded a whole bunch of things and as people who have faith in Jesus Christ that means we should be doing such things too. It's not our duty to say we are justified. It's our duty to trust in, trust and obey Jesus Christ. We endeavour to be justified in Him as we hope in Him, trusting in Him, trying to be obedient in all He commanded of us.

Jesus Christ is the gatekeeper:

John 10:9-16 - I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

John 14:1-6 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going. Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

I truly believe that God is fair:

Acts 10:34-36 - So Peter opened his mouth and said: Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), (ESV)

I truly believe that God tests all people to see if they are law-abiding:

Matthew 7:23-24 - And then will I declare to them, **I never knew you;** depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

This makes it quite clear that we must be law-abiding:

Matthew 13:38-42 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

We must love one another the way God has commanded us:

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

I John 5:1-2 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and **everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him**. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified**. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

The faith we must have is still law, but it's not a law of works:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the **law of faith**. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith**. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Since the judgement is that light has come into the world, upon seeing the light of Jesus and His Gospel, we must not then prefer evil (**Psalms 52:1-5**), but we must change to prefer God because there remains a later judgement for those who do not.

God sees our hearts in advance of the "last day".

John 12 seems to articulate that when Jesus came He didn't come to judge. But that there remains a latter judgement if Jesus is rejected and those that reject Him or His words are judged by Him (Jesus, the Son of God) on the basis of what they rejected of Him. The Son of God does judge. So God is the Judge of the Living and the dead. But the Father does not judge but the Son does judge. But if in advance of "the last day" a person puts their faith in Jesus then they are saved by Him rather than judged. And following from that, sanctification would then involve ongoing trusting in the voice of Jesus, and that involves trusting in His words, coming into agreement with His words, as they are heard:

John 12:44-47 (Interlinear) And if anyone [of Me hears] the words (i.e. hears Jesus' words) and not keeps [them] (G5442 phylaxē) I not (G2919 krinō: do judge [Tense: V-PIA-1S. i.e. presently judge]) (G846 auton: him) [...] not for I came that I might judge the world but that I might save the world

John 12:44-48 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. **I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.** If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge (G2919 krinō: do judge) him; for I did not come to judge the world (G2919 krinō: I might judge) but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

So it follows that if someone is trusting in Jesus and His words as they are heard, then they will be saved and not condemned.

God commands people for their faith. And in this life, even if we are holding faith in the blood of Jesus, we must continue enduring in that faith seeking commendation from God and we must not be like the son who buried his talent, but we should try to have hearts blameless, ready for that day:

John 3:14-19 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than (G3123 mallon, rather/more than, in preference to, instead of) light, because their deeds were evil. (KJV)

Romans 2:6-8 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

II Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known **the way of righteousness** than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

I Thessalonians 3:11-13 - Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and **may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all**, as we do for you, **so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father**, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (ESV)

Carrying our cross is remaining faithful to Jesus.

Any suffering we may receive for the sake of remaining faithful to Jesus and His gospel, that is our cross:

Luke 21:19 - By your endurance you will gain your lives (G5590 psychas: souls). (ESV)

Matthew 16:26 - For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life (G5590 psychēs: souls)? (ESV)

Luke 9:23-27 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God. (ESV)

We must be faithful and loyal to Jesus and it's a daily walk:

Luke 9:23-27 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross **daily** and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God. (ESV)

A person might question whether or not they are managing to keep Jesus' commandments "well enough". They might even tell God something like, "I'm not going to do it unless You do this for me first." But when testing happens, they end up actually doing what God wants them to do:

Matthew 21:28-31 - What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, Son, go and work in the vineyard today. And he answered, I will not, but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, I go, sir, but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, The first. Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. (ESV)

Luke 8:15 - As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (ESV)

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

I'm not judging people until the Lord Jesus Christ does. There comes a day when God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus and when we are judged by Jesus Christ He disciplines us in advance that we may not be condemned with the world. I believe I've personally been going through this discipline after getting born-again. There is a final judgement that happens later. So I hope this testimony can be an extra warning for people that they may come to the obedience of faith in Christ Jesus with a sincere agape love for God and their family in Christ. Lord Jesus Christ, come:

I Corinthians 4:5 - Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. (ESV)

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified**. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:1-10 - Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For **God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.** (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so **that we may not be condemned along with the world.** (ESV)

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

God can see what we're actually thinking and cares about the intentions of our heart, and He wants us to seek Him:

G1963 epinoia attention of the mind, i.e. (by implication) purpose:-thought.

I Chronicles 28:9 - And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. (ESV)

Acts 8:22 - Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. (ESV)

Jesus is the Word of God, and God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus:

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (ESV)

Romans 2:16 - on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:13 - each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. (ESV)

Genesis 6:5 - The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every *intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (ESV)

Therefore, we should be obedient from the heart to Christ:

II Corinthians 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (ESV)

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

The Kingdom of God is an everlasting Kingdom that endures from generation to generation. It's a real Kingdom with Jesus Christ as its head (**Daniel 7:14**). God does according to His will among the host of heaven and of earth. It is noticeable, but one has to be born of the spirit in order to see (John 3:3) or enter (John 3:5) or inherit (I Corinthians 15:50) the Kingdom. And one must be sanctified (Ephesians 5:5) to have an inheritance in the Kingdom, and that sanctification involves exercising Christ's love (Matthew 25:34):

Daniel 4:34-35 - At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and **he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth**; and none can stay his hand or say to him, What have you done? (ESV)

Acts 2:36 - Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. (ESV)

Acts 17:24-25 - The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. (ESV)

Psalms 145:13 - Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] (ESV)

Daniel 7:18-27 - But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever. Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said: As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them. (ESV)

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter or inherit (I Corinthians 15:50) the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Acts 20:25-32 - And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you **the whole counsel of God**. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are **sanctified**. (ESV)

I also think there's a difference between entering and inheriting the Kingdom of God or perhaps the measure of that inheritance is dependent on our embracing sanctification and then Jesus glorifying Himself in us. I am trying to understand these things.

Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

All who call on him are blessed with being conformed to the image of God's son **from one degree of glory to another:**

Romans 10:12 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. (ESV)

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

Romans 8:29-32 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously **give us all things?** (ESV)

Ephesians 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, (ESV)

I John 5:4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (ESV)

I also believe in the imputed righteousness which guarantees entry into God's Kingdom, and that is by being found in Christ. Being found in Christ qualifies entrance. So if we confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, God abides in us and us in God. I confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and Jesus is Lord. I believe I have the right to call God my Father as someone who believes in Jesus Christ, Son of God. I believe God is my Father through Jesus and that Jesus is mediating this relationship for me.

Romans 8:14-23 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (ESV)

As people who call God our Father, we must love Jesus Christ and if it's true that God is our Father then it **must** be true that we love Jesus, which means it **must** be true that we're practicing Jesus' commandments:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

We believing on Jesus' name, Jesus Christ Son of God, we have the right to become children of God, and also to love our family in Christ, and to be sanctified and to practice righteousness are also mandatory - both commandments and rights that we have. No-one is allowed to prevent you from obeying God, from obeying Jesus, and we **must** obey God, obey Jesus.

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

We're saved from sin by being placed "in Christ" (justified by Jesus' blood while in Christ) and "brought to God" (sanctified):

Romans 5:9-11 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (ESV)

When I say "I believe I am justified through faith in Jesus Christ's blood", what I really mean by that is that, I believe it is faith in Jesus Christ Himself and in the knowledge of His words and deeds what the prophets have spoken about Him, it's faith in all of this as well, and I believe that it is the means by which I am or would be justified and the way I should live to be justified, and the means by which people are justified but I don't justify myself or commend myself for that faith. Rather, I endeavour to do as I'm asked to by God, and I focus on Jesus: believe His words, commit my way to Him, obey His commandments, trust in Him, believe His gospel believe His deeds, walk by faith in Him, and He is my advocate and God is the justifier of the one who has faith in Christ Jesus.

Confidence, I believe, comes from keeping Christ's commandments, believing the Truth, believing in Jesus Christ, believing the gospel and loving one another:

I John 4:6-19 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Continue walking in the truth. Continue believing the truth and walking in love, walking in the truth with sincere agape love for our family in Christ:

I John 2:24-29 - Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

Be the house of God, continuing to believe the gospel and agape love one-another:

Hebrews 3:1-6 - Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (ESV)

Colossians 2:1-7 - For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (ESV)

We need the Spirit of Christ to be in us. God gives the spirit to those who obey Him, obey Jesus.

Acts 5:29-32 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

It's an indisputable fact that God's Holy Spirit of Truth goes to those who obey Him. I think it's important to believe this Truth and it's rock solid teaching:

Acts 5:29-32 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Matthew 12:32 - And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Jesus promised He would send the Helper, the Spirit of Truth to those who love Him and keep His commandments and the Spirit of Truth would bear witness about Him:

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

John 15:26-27 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:5-6 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (ESV)

As children needing adoption we were enslaved by the elementary principles of the world, fearful people, without God (**Ephesians 2:11-13**), and then we came to know God / be known by God and we then face a battle with the flesh.

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

There is certainly a struggle against sin even after coming to faith in Jesus:

Hebrews 12:4 - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (ESV)

That ongoing struggle against sin even after coming to faith in Jesus involves continuing to obey Jesus rather than sin and abide in His teaching and do good:

Hebrews 10:32-34 - But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. (ESV)

Matthew 5:40 - And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. (ESV)

Luke 6:29 - To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:15 - See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. (ESV)

I Peter 3:9 - Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. (ESV)

Wanting to obey the precepts of God's Law, by following Jesus' Law/commandments, as slaves of righteousness, we love/serve God's Law. The enemy tries to stop us from keeping Jesus' commandments:

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Titus 3:1-2 - Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, **to be obedient, to be ready for every good work**, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. (ESV)

While the essence of obedience is in the heart, that should translate into action so that we can be vessels for honorable use:

II Timothy 2:21 - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (ESV)

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who **confesses and forsakes** them will obtain mercy. (ESV)

The blood of Jesus cleanses us to serve the living God, serving Jesus. Being washed by the blood of Jesus cleanses our hearts and minds so that we can serve God in pure obedience from a pure heart:

Hebrews 9:13-14 - For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

We have to continue in obedience to Christ:

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Romans 7:22-25 - For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

God knows us, knows the thoughts of our hearts, knows our intentions. We can then just maintain a good conscience with God, pleasing Him who sees everything and there is real reward for doing what please; God, but there is also consequences for what evil has been done. That's what a relationship with God is like:

II Corinthians 5:8-12 - Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.** **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.** **Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.** But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commanding ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about **what is in the heart.** (ESV)

Ultimately, when we sin, we sin against God and we ultimately needed God to have loved us first in sending Jesus Christ while we were all still sinners in order that we might be cleansed from our sin as without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin:

Psalms 51:1-4 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:22 - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

Jesus' sacrifice was done once for all:

Hebrews 9:24-28 - For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:5-14 - Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book. When he said above, You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings (these are offered according to the law), then he added, Behold, I have come to do your will. He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

It's not possible to be simultaneously walking in faith and knowing the right thing to do but not doing it. So that means walking by faith involves endeavouring to maintain a good conscience with God:

James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (ESV)

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

We must "walk in the light" (love in the truth, love in the light, love in actuality, from the heart). We can't love in truth while denying Christ, for example (John 3:14-19, I John 4:1-3). And we can't love in the truth while hating our family in Christ (I John 3:14-20). We love because God loved us first (I John 4:6-19). Loving in the truth also means that it is out of faith in the truth (Romans 14:23), out of sincere love for God (I Corinthians 16:22), endeavouring to do what God wants us to do, seeking to please God (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 8:3-10, Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 1:1-10), in the truth (accepting God loved us first, II John 1:1-3), unlike a whitewashed-wall Pharisee who doesn't do their works from a *truly* obedient heart (I Peter 2:6-9). Good deeds come out of sincerely obeying Jesus Christ out of faith in Him. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us and He commanded us to love our family in Christ as a must. We must love our family in Christ. The deeds will come from a genuine love in the truth from the heart:

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

I Peter 2:6-9 - For it stands in Scripture: Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Having our mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is not a spiritual mindedness, and succumbs to ungodly fear, for example, like when Peter denied Jesus (if Peter had more fear of God in that moment, rather than ungodly fear, then maybe Peter would have feared God more than getting in trouble with the Romans), or succumbs to lies for example, i.e. the flesh doesn't agree with the Truth about God. But we set our minds on the spirit, being spiritually minded and we are able to fulfill the requirement of the law as we do so.

youtube.com: John Piper and Tim Keller Wrestle with Sanctification {@desiringGod} @time: 2 min 9 sec

I think Walder Marshall's The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification says it this way, that "you need the comforts of the Gospel in order to fulfill the law". So that's pretty much what I would say too.

In fact, if we start calling on God as our Father, then we have an obligation to think and act like children of God, and God will chastise us and discipline us to clean us up, and Christ may/will judge us and discipline us **that we may not be condemned along with the world:**

John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (ESV)

Hebrews 12:4-8 - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (ESV)

Proverbs 3:11-12 - My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reprobates him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so **that we may not be condemned along with the world.** (ESV)

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:11-13 - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (ESV)

We trust Christ and receive the promise. By faith we trust and obey Christ and receive the promise:

Galatians 3:22-9 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. (ESV)

Galatians 4:1-9 - I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. *Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.* But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, **how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world**, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

In trusting Jesus Christ and His words, and obeying His commandments we are led by His Spirit. By faith we trust and obey Jesus Christ to call no man on earth our Father, for we believe Jesus that we have one Father who is in heaven:

Romans 8:14-17 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

Matthew 23:9 - And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. (ESV)

We must **want** (agape love, treasure the light) to be healed / sanctified, want to have purified consciences (Hebrews 9:13-15) to serve God and walk in holiness:

John 5:6 - When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, Do you want to be healed? (ESV)

Luke 1:73-75 - the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. (ESV)

And yes, John 5:6 is a matter of wanting to be healed and of continuing on walking in holiness, putting a stop to committing sin, continuing on forsaking sin. Sin is spiritually very destructive. God is prepared to heal us, but I believe we have to want to be clean and we should also stop committing sin so that nothing worse happens to us. We are healed through faith in Jesus, through faith in His blood, through faith in His name and I believe that sanctification involves faith and repentance from sin and wanting to be clean:

John 5:6-15 - When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, **Do you want to be healed?** The sick man answered him, Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me. Jesus said to him, Get up, take up your bed, and walk. And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed. But he answered them, The man who healed me, that man said to me, Take up your bed, and walk. They asked him, Who is the man who said to you, Take up your bed and walk? Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! **Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.** The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:26-28 - When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. (ESV)

Ezekiel 37:23 - They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

We live according to the Spirit and set our mind on the Spirit, and conform to Christ's image, abiding in Christ's teachings including commandments, and have no fear as we follow Jesus. Jesus has made it possible to overcome the world and to live in the Truth, obeying Him instead of obeying fears that worldly people have:

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

God did what we could not in order that we might love the way He wants us to love:

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

The just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us. We need to die to the law and trust and obey Jesus Christ to fulfill the law:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

Galatians 5:14 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 logō): You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV)

youtube.com: John Piper and Tim Keller Wrestle with Sanctification {@desiringGod} @time: 2 min 9 sec

I think Walther Marshall's The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification says it this way, that "you need the comforts of the Gospel in order to fulfill the law". So that's pretty much what I would say too.

Matthew 6:31-33 - Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

Jesus has many commandments but among the most important is to believe who He is: Son of God, Christ, Messiah. Otherwise, as He said...

John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. (ESV)

To be known by God, we have to love God:

I Corinthians 8:2-3 - If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

We must have faith in, love and obey Jesus:

Matthew 7:21-24 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, **I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.** Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:18 - The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

We must love Jesus:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

We must love God:

Psalms 91:14-16 - Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation. (ESV)

We must be people who love with agape love in order to say we know God, and essentially, this love comes from God. We know the love God has for us and we love one another:

John 10:14-16 - I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

We want Jesus, so we should treasure Jesus:

Psalms 37:4 - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (ESV)

Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

Jesus must be our number 1 heart's desire. If we treasure Jesus and His words and deeds, and are obediently turning from our sin, confessing sin as sin and confessing our sin as sin as we go along (i.e. we are being corrected by obedience to the Truth, walking in the light), then we should not feel unworthy to be able to come to church.

We must **want** (agape love, treasure the light) to be healed / sanctified, want to have purified consciences (Hebrews 9:13-15) to serve God and walk in holiness:

John 5:6 - When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, Do you want to be healed? (ESV)

And yes, John 5:6 is a matter of wanting to be healed and of continuing on walking in holiness, putting a stop to committing sin, continuing on forsaking sin. Sin is spiritually very destructive. God is prepared to heal us, but I believe we have to want to be clean and we should also stop committing sin so that nothing worse happens to us. We are healed through faith in Jesus, through faith in His blood, through faith in His name and I believe that sanctification involves faith and repentance from sin and wanting to be clean:

John 5:6-15 - When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, **Do you want to be healed?** The sick man answered him, Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me. Jesus said to him, Get up, take up your bed, and walk. And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed. But he answered them, The man who healed me, that man said to me, Take up your bed, and walk. They asked him, Who is the man who said to you, Take up your bed and walk? Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! **Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.** The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. (ESV)

If we admit we are great sinners in need of a great Saviour with an attitude of love for Jesus, then you'd be amongst fellow believers who also know they are great sinners in need of a great Saviour with an attitude of love for Jesus:

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

This purification of the heart leaves us with a "desire" to do good works:

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

We must also be repentant from sin to be allowed to continue coming to church. That's discipline. And we are disciplined by God:

I Corinthians 5:1-13 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction

of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

It's in the truth also that we must repent of wickedness:

II Corinthians 12:21 - I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not **repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality** that they have practiced. (ESV)

II Corinthians 13:1-9 - This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God. Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For **we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.** For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. (ESV)

Whoever trusts in the Son has the Father also:

John 12:44 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. (ESV)

I John 2:23 - **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (ESV)

Whoever follows Jesus, follows God:

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

We MUST agape (treasuring) love Jesus and the other children of God:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

I John 5:1-2 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

We come to know God, the love God has for us, practicing righteousness, loving our family in Christ, putting sin to death. Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works but is quite related. Obedience is a heart attitude. Disobedient people are unfit for any good work:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

I John 4:8-10 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

Romans 12:17-19 - Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 8:2-6 - And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, **testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not**. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD**. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall **keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him**. (ESV)

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 1:3 - We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. (ESV)

Those who confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus is the Son of God abides in God and God in Him. Whoever abides in agape love abides in God and God abides in Him.

I John 4:15-16 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

You can't have real agape love while denying the truth:

I John 2:22 - Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. (ESV)

I John 4:3 - and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

We must love in the truth:

II John 1:1-4 - The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom **I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth**, because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. (ESV)

Ezekiel 33:31-32 - So My people come to you as usual, sit before you, and hear your words; but they do not put them into practice. Although they express love with their mouths, their hearts pursue dishonest gain. Indeed, you are to them like a singer of love songs with a beautiful voice, who skillfully plays an instrument. They hear your words but do not put them into practice. (engbsb2020eb)

youtube.com: The Deception Behind the Saying: God is Love {@DerekPrinceMinistries} @time: 5 min 9 sec

I agree that love is the greatest thing. But the trouble is that people are not always clear about the nature of love as it is described in the New Testament. First of all, love in us is expressed in obedience to the Lord. Any kind of love that does not result in obedience is unscriptural love. In John 14:15 Jesus said to His disciples: "If you love Me, keep My commandments." Or in a perhaps better text, "...you will keep my commandments." In other words, what is the evidence that you love Him? The evidence is keeping His commandments. Then in verse 21 (John 14:12), the first part, Jesus says: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me..." And in 1 John 5:3 it says: For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments..."

Therefore, any kind of love that does not result in the obedience to the will of God revealed in His word, it is not scriptural love. It's a counterfeit, a substitute for the real thing.

Then we need to consider the way that God expresses His love toward us. True, God is our Father and He loves us. But as a Father, if necessary, He is prepared to discipline us. In the messages to the seven churches depicted in Revelation, I would say that Laodicea is probably the one that corresponds most closely to the contemporary church in the West. And to that church the Lord said: "**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.**" So God's love is not sloppy. It's not sentimental. It is right down to earth. **If we are straying from His ways and if we are disobedient, His love is expressed in rebuking us and chastening us, and He commands us to repent.**

Once again we have the problem of trying to get what God promises, but bypassing the basic condition of repentance which is a deception. I recently read the following comment by a British Bible teacher. "Some Christians take the text "God is love" and turn it around to mean "Love is God." In other words, nothing can be wrong if it is rooted in love. However, any love that comes between us and God is an illegitimate love. Likewise, any love that diverts us from obedience to God's word is illegitimate.

It's perfect self-humbling obedience throughout His sinless life as He walked the earth in the flesh that only Jesus Christ has reached, was able to reach and was destined to reach:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:45 - Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (ESV)

Turn away from sin (repent from it) and receive the Word of God in your heart, which is able to save your souls:

James 1:21-25 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

We are instructed to repent from (confess and forsake) sin both before (James 1:21-25) and after (Romans 8:13) receiving the Spirit:

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Even Simon the magician believed and was baptised but it is evident that even the Apostle Peter recognised that Simon might perish. As far as I can tell Simon had not yet received Holy Spirit. His heart still wasn't right. Just like Simon, we must receive the love of the truth in our heart to be saved. Simon was instructed to **repent from sin**. While true agape love is the bond of perfection, I think the bond of iniquity might mean a love of darkness. Simon had to relinquish his sinful desire. Likewise, the rich young ruler (in Mark 10:17-27) had a love of worldly possessions. We need to agape love the truth and fall out of love of darkness. Even as believers, we need to continue on in the teachings of Christ to be saved:

Acts 8:13-23 - Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him, May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! **You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent,** therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in **the bond of iniquity.** (ESV)

We are cleaned by the blood of Christ to serve the living God:

Matthew 4:10 - Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

If a person does not stop committing deliberate sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, then there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins. As I understand it, if a person spurns the grace of God by continuing to commit sin, then they can't kill the sin anymore, they become hardened in the sin, they become unable to turn away from it, and the wrath of God will come to such people:

Hebrews 10:23-29 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **he who promised is faithful**. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to **meet together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more **as you see the Day drawing near**. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? (ESV)

youtube.com: Is repentance an aspect of faith, or is repentance a good work? {@ligonier} @time: 1 min

NICHOLS: Yeah, I think what we need to see is **faith is the trusting in, and repentance is the turning from**. And so, you know, as you come to God, we are all oriented away from God, we are seeking not God, and so a conversion is a 180.

And as we are **turning towards God in faith**, we are **turning from ultimately the self and from sin, and that's repentance**. So, if ever a soul is to get to heaven, the two wings of faith and repentance will get that soul to heaven.

LAWSON: Yeah, and to even merge that together, all faith is a repentant faith and all repentance is really a believing repentance. I mean, they really are merged together. And you put it so well and it's true, the faith is the turning to and repentance is the turning away from, and you can't have one without the other. I mean, it's a package deal.

I think the reason that repentance and faith work together like this is because saving faith is a faith that loves the truth, as opposed to hates the truth, where mere 'belief' could be either love or hate for the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

We have to love God and hate sin:

John 3:14-19 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than (G3123 mallon, rather/more than, in preference to, instead of) light, because their deeds were evil. (KJV)

Psalms 145:20 - The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. (ESV)

Paul here is repentant from the heart (like Paul we must be repentant, we have to receive the love of the truth). He wants to do good (he has an obedient heart, a heart that loves God and loves Jesus Christ and loves what God has done, and loves God's Law) but indwelling sin is an issue and he's doing battle against sin:

Romans 7:19-20 - For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (ESV)

As Christians we have changed hearts and minds to desire God, rather than desiring sin:

James 1:15 - Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

It's in the truth also that we must repent of wickedness:

II Corinthians 12:21 - I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not **repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality** that they have practiced. (ESV)

II Corinthians 13:1-9 - This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them— since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God. Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For **we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.** For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. (ESV)

The Good News, while a gift, is to turn to a living God, not to walk in our own way but to walk in the ways of God:

Acts 14:15-16 - Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. (ESV)

youtube.com: America Under Delusion | David Wilkerson {@worldchallenge} I want to walk in liberty and freedom. If that is in your heart, the Bible said you ask for the Holy Ghost and the Holy Ghost will come down and he has all the power and all the provision you need to obey God. He has every right to demand it because he made provision to do it.

Even after we have been healed by Jesus, and also as we are *being* healed by Jesus, we must turn away from evil and do good. We must obey Jesus rather than obey sin:

John 5:11-14 - But he answered them, The man who healed me, that man said to me, Take up your bed, and walk. They asked him, Who is the man who said to you, Take up your bed and walk? Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you. (ESV)

We obey the truth. We believe the gospel and obey the truth:

Galatians 5:6-7 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? (ESV)

We live according to the truth. We are saved to serve/obey and be taught by Christ.

Luke 1:73-75 - the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. (ESV)

This is still obedience to God's Word, and obedience to God's Law - as Jesus is the Word and the fulfillment of God's Law.

The word "telē" in I Cor 10:11 is the plural of "telos" which is used in Romans 10:4. It doesn't mean "abolishment". It's more like "culmination", "goal, or "full maturity", or the "final stage", or the "ultimate purpose" and that if a person has arrived at faith in Jesus then they have arrived at the destination where the Mosaic Law was a "schoolmaster" to get us to. Now even if the coming faith was not yet "revealed", if someone were to have pursued the Mosaic Law by genuine fear of God, love of God, trust of God, hope in God, faith in the heart (rather than the exterior works) then that would still be commendable. But if a person rejects Jesus (say if they reject Him as King, or as Christ, if they don't submit to God's righteousness) then it simply shows that they do not have true faith in God, that they do not do what Abraham did, they do not have the love of God, the love of the Truth in them:

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end (G5056 telos) of the law (G3551 nomos) for righteousness (G1343 dikaiosune) to everyone who believes (G4100 pisteuo, trusts). (ESV)

Galatians 3:22-27 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (ESV)

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because

I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

So the meaning of "telos" is more like "ultimate" or "fulfillment" or in context I think it means "final say" or even "foundation" or "cornerstone". So for those who have an agape-loving faith in Jesus Christ, a treasuring for the truth of the gospel, the free gift of righteousness that comes from God ultimately has the final say in judgement. In other words, the righteousness that is not of themselves but which is a free gift through faith in Christ based on His work alone has the ultimate say and also is the foundation for any other righteousness of a believer, such as persecution for the cross of Christ, and if all other righteousness fails, there is still no condemnation.

Romans 10:11-15 - For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news! (ESV)

John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. (ESV)

Topical lexicon - telos - Pastoral Goal of Instruction and Love "The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith" (1 Timothy 1:5). Ministry is evaluated not merely by activity but by its telos—*agapē*-shaped hearts. This pastoral usage echoes 1 Peter 1:9: believers are "receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." Peter later exhorts, "the end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and sober" (1 Peter 4:7), tethering practical holiness to the impending consummation.

Topical lexicon - telos - Perseverance and Assurance Hebrews repeatedly ties telos to enduring faith: "We are His house if we hold fast our confidence and the hope in which we boast until the end" (Hebrews 3:6); "We have become partakers of Christ if we hold firmly to the end the assurance we had at first" (Hebrews 3:14). Paul prays that God "will also keep you strong to the end" (1 Corinthians 1:8). Revelation 2:26 promises authority to the one "who overcomes and continues in My work until the end." Telos serves as both the horizon and the incentive for steadfast discipleship.

A true faith in Jesus is one which agape-loves (values, treasures) Jesus and His words and deeds:

I Peter 1:8-9 - Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

By faith we obey Christ first and foremost to be justified and to arrive at the knowledge of Christ and of God - we obey Jesus to arrive at knowing God:

II Corinthians 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (ESV)

John 8:19 - They said to him therefore, Where is your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also. (ESV)

I John 1:3 - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (ESV)

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Galatians 5:1-7 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. Who hindered you from **obeying the truth?** (ESV)

Obey the Truth means obey Jesus:

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

Romans 2:6-8 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

We can't "earn" salvation on the basis of the "works". But we can "receive what is due for our faith, for being 'doers' of the law of Christ", and what we receive for that is salvation (I Peter 1:9-10). So we can still "earn" salvation but it's not earned on the basis of "the works" which accompany the faith. Salvation is received by faith which resides in the heart. So with Abraham putting Isaac on the altar, he was still walking in faith, and he still did works (works of faith), and God tested his heart and saw that he was faithful to God first and agape loved God even more than his monogenes son (Genesis 22:11-12). Abraham feared God. But God didn't need Isaac to be sacrificed for Abraham to be saved. God had already provided a ram (Genesis 22:13-14). So while justification by works may happen, it doesn't happen on the basis of works (it doesn't happen without faith), and the type of faith Abraham had was with the fear of God (hatred of sin, wanting to do what pleases God, a repentant heart), with God as his first agape love:

Romans 11:6 - But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. (ESV)

We must have been changed in the heart so that we "do good" from the heart. That means from the heart having fear of God, faith in God, agape love for God, loving the truth:

II Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (ESV)

So to say, "You can't 'earn' salvation," I think is a bit of a half-truth, or even blatantly incorrect because it makes it sound like God does not commend people for having faith in Him. But God is both just and merciful:

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified**. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

So long as what we mean by it is "We can't boast before God that we earned salvation outside of His grace", then that is OK because even the coming to God and being in a position of being able to receive Jesus is grace. God wants us to seek Him out.

I don't like pitting our obedience up against our faith. It's not actually correct. Like, we are saved by obedience to Jesus Christ. Whilst it's all grace and a gift (no one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws them), there are still things we can certainly do to receive Jesus Christ, such as draw near to God. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Our obedience to Jesus can be walking into the gift. Justice and mercy are not mutually exclusive. Jesus said blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy. So if Jesus Christ said it, it's still true and it's still through Jesus Christ. When we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin. That's justice and mercy at the same time. Yes we all need God's mercy, but we also need His justice. We don't commend ourselves for our faith tho. That's not our duty as human beings. Our duty is to fear God and keep His commandments. We can't please God without the spirit of Christ. It's all grace. It's good to be grateful. It's in the truth that we should be grateful. But at the same time it's also in the truth that we must love our family in Christ. And it's in the truth that we should believe God send His Son into the world to die for our sins and rise from the dead for our justification. It's in the truth that we must forgive our family in Christ. It's in the truth that the Holy Spirit goes to those who obey God. All of that is in the truth.

It's in the truth also that we must repent of wickedness:

II Corinthians 12:21 - I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not **repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality** that they have practiced. (ESV)

II Corinthians 13:1-9 - This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God. Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For **we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth**. For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. (ESV)

In my view it's all obedience to the truth and essentially means accepting the gospel and letting it work in your life through faith/obedience to Jesus. The gospel being inclusive of all the sayings which Jesus spoke during His ministry recorded in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the deeds which He carried out, including making atonement for sin:

Luke 4:18-19 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (ESV)

Luke 4:42-43 - And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, I must preach **the good news of the kingdom of God** to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose. (ESV)

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him

on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

Luke 8:15 - As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (ESV)

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

When we are living in faith in God for His promises we are living in an obedient way. Belief and obedience are not separate things in my opinion, but we must have both obedience and belief in the heart - we must agree that gospel of Jesus is Truth and live in that reality holding faith and being obedient to Jesus and God will make it happen. So living by faith walks according to the will of God with hope in His promises, trust in Jesus and faithfulness-obedience to His commandments, walking in the ways of God seeking God's commendation, trusting in God, and living as though He exists:

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Acts 15:9 - and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

Following Jesus means laying our life down for Jesus and not denying Him:

John 13:36-38 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered him, Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward. Peter said to him, Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you. Jesus answered, Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times. (ESV)

And it means loving Jesus which involves obeying Jesus including His commandment to trust Him and His other commandments:

John 14:1-7 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going. Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. (ESV)

I think John Piper meant to say cleansed your souls here in the first line:

youtube.com: Hope and the Fruit of Love @time: 13 min 58 sec "You have cleansed your [souls] by obedience to the truth." **Acts 15:9** says, "God cleansed their hearts by faith." The gospel demands faith. Therefore, obedience to the gospel is faith and faith is hope - faith in the future that God is providing. Faith in all these truths of chapter 1 (i.e. [I Peter 1]), means "hoping faith is the assurance of things hoped for."

Our faith should be in God and our hope should be for God's promises **as** we serve God through Jesus. God has spoken a lot already in the Scriptures and about how we should listen to Jesus. Saving faith trusts God:

I Peter 1:20-23 - He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God.** Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (ESV)

Both belief and obedience come out of a trust of God in the heart. So our faith should be based on hope that is based on truth. We must understand the truth in our hearts, and allow it to work itself out in us. The word of God in the heart saves us.

When we trust in the name (**onoma**) of the Son of God, we receive forgiveness of sins. Everyone who believes/trusts in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through His name:

Acts 10:43-45 - To him all the prophets bear witness that **everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name**. While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. (ESV)

The Apostle Paul was obedient to God. This is Paul exercising his faith in God through obedience. Also, this was obedience to a heavenly vision - a vision in which Jesus was confessed (**I John 4:3**) - and it was a truthful vision that is in accordance with the gospel which the earlier Apostles were teaching:

Acts 26:14-15 - And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads. And I said, Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. (ESV)

Acts 26:19 - Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, (ESV)

We abide in Jesus when He washes us. When the Holy Spirit washes us, the Holy Spirit helps us to put sin to death:

John 13:8 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Peter believed/received/obeyed/trusted like a child of God (he cooperated) to let Jesus wash him but it was Jesus doing the work:

John 13:9 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! (ESV)

Jesus' servants (people who believe and obey Him) are found **in him**. We know Christ by living in the pattern in which he lived. Jesus' servants are those who have accepted Jesus to wash them, and they ought to then wash one another:

Psalms 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his **servants**; none of those who take refuge **in him** will be condemned. (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them**. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

And they were put in Him by Him:

I Corinthians 1:30 - It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. (engbsb2020eb)

Titus 3:5-7 - he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

When we walk in trusting, believing, obedient faith, God works in us and to deliver us and makes our paths straight for us:

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Matthew 7:15-20 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (ESV)

Matthew 12:33-35 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. (ESV)

By trusting in Jesus, and forsaking sin, God pulls us out of darkness, so that we produce fruit that is pleasing to God:

Ephesians 5:5-12 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for **the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true**), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. (ESV)

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so **that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness**. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

We need to have escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. We need to be producers of good fruit:

II Peter 1:3-8 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to **supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love**. For if **these qualities are yours and are increasing**, they keep you from being ineffective or **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Luke 3:8-9 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (ESV)

Matthew 7:16-23 - You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. **Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.** Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:12 - Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. (ESV)

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That's what love does. Love wills the good of the other and actually it's operative, it actually works for the good and sacrifices for the good of the other, and that's necessary for someone to be good, clearly. But again, that doesn't mean someone is going to go to heaven. He can be naturally good because he sees somebody hungry and he wants to feed them. You can be an atheist and still do that. Um, you can be an atheist and still be honest and not steal. You know, just because you're living up to your own standard of being a decent person, that's not going to get you to heaven, no.

Um, what is rewardable in the eyes of God, what is thankworthy in the eyes of God is if you actually follow Jesus Christ and follow his example and follow what he says, what he wants of us. Doing what God wants of you is what ultimately makes you a 'good' or a bad person, right? In this case, the person who says that, uh, if he says he believes in God, does he believe in Jesus Christ? Does he believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God? If he does then he should read the gospel, he should see what our Lord says, he should do see what our Lord wants of him. And, um, he would find out from the gospel that our Lord says "Do these things, do these things, do these things." He says that. He tells them that they must eat of him, receive His body and His blood. He tells them that. If they are to have any life in them they must eat of His sacrifice. This is His way of saying "I am your sacrifice, you must partake of me to share in the sacrifice, the benefit of the sacrifice I'm gaining for you. You must do this." He doesn't leave the option, He says "You must do this." He says to his apostles last supper "You do this in commemoration of me." He gives them that command he gives the apostles the power to forgive sins. All of these things a 'good' person who believes in God and believes in Jesus Christ and sees in the gospel, [that] this is what he's saying to us, cannot brush those aside and say "I can be good without this." Basically, if he does, if he sees what Jesus Christ is telling us he wants of us, and then brushes it aside and says, "Well I can be good without that." They're saying, "I can be good without Jesus Christ. I can be a good person without Jesus Christ." And so this is the this is the mind of the rationalist, the naturalist who practice the philosophy of naturalism. This is the mind of the masons (the Freemasons) who believe in the natural goodness of man, that we just, um, basically are good by the very fact that we're human beings, and we don't need anything, we don't need grace from God, we don't need forgiveness from God, we don't need sanctification from God, we don't need Jesus Christ. This is the very definition of a Pharisee. This is who a Pharisee is - I am good because I consider myself good and I'm good enough and everybody else should acknowledge that with me, that I am good, okay? Because I live to my own standards of goodness. Our Lord exploded that in the gospel and showed just how false that was that whole mentality. They were good in their own eyes. They are, uh, you know, what's what's the expression, 'great in their own eyes'. Like the Pharisee who stood who stood in front of the Holy of Holies, and boasted to God, "I thank Thee that Thou hast made me not like the rest of men, because I do this and I do that, I don't do these bad things. I'm not even like this publican back here who's so bad.

I'm not the one to condemn but Jesus' word will judge on the last day the one who rejects Jesus' words. I believe we must be corrected by the Truth, as it is revealed to us through God's Word as we are walking by the Spirit.

This quite clearly shows that the Truth is Jesus Christ is Almighty God and God is Father, Son (Jesus Christ, His Eternal Word, made flesh) and Holy Spirit:

Zechariah 12:10 - And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on **me, on him whom they have pierced**, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (ESV)

Colossians 2:9 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, (ESV)

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And uh one cannot in any way shape or form in any sense be considered a Christian who denies the doctrine of the blessed Trinity, and yet survey shows 9% of those identifying as Catholics in America believe only 9% believe in the blessed trinity. 91% do not believe. Now that's apostasy. You know, this basically amounts to apostasy because when you deny the belief in the blessed Trinity, you deny everything. You deny the incarnation of the second person of the blessed trinity. If there is no second person of the blessed trinity, you deny if you deny the incarnation of the second person of the blessed trinity, you deny the redemption. You deny all the sacraments, everything, everything goes with that denial. It's called apostasy.

I have a section further in this document on feeding on Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 8:2-6 - And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, **testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.** And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall **keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.** (ESV)

John 6:32-35 - Jesus then said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. They said to him, Sir, give us this bread always. Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (ESV)

John 14:19 - Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. (ESV)

John 6:57 - As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. (ESV)

John 6:63-65 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father. (ESV)

There is earthly food and drink and spiritual food and drink:

I Corinthians 10:1-4 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ.** (ESV)

Amos 8:11-13 - Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it. In that day the lovely virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 8:2-6 - And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, **testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.** And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall **keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.** (ESV)

John 4:32-34 - But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. So the disciples said to one another, Has anyone brought him something to eat? Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (ESV)

John 6:40-65 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. They said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, I have come down from heaven? Jesus answered them, Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. **If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.** The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever. Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, This is a hard saying; who can listen to it? But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. **The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.** (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father. (ESV)

Maybe this is the way understand it: Jesus, God's eternal Word, Father God's Son, became flesh. And what Jesus has accomplished in His flesh (His natural body) including the teachings and commandments He gave, and His passion and resurrection, we must feed on (agape love (treasure), believe, trust, do). Jesus gave His flesh for the life of the world.

After Jesus was resurrected, He had flesh and bones. I'm leaning towards this as also counting when Jesus said the bread He gives for the life of the world is His flesh:

Luke 24:38-39 - And he said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. (ESV)

John 20:17 - Jesus said to her, Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:42-45 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:14-16 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. (ESV)

Jesus, the Word of God, having come from God into the world **in the flesh** said that He is the bread of life. And the words which He spoke as He said these things, He said are spirit and life and that all who trust/believe [what He said] have eternal life:

John 6:40-65 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. They said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, I have come down from heaven? Jesus answered them, Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. **If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.** **And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.** The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever. Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, This is a hard saying; who can listen to it? But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. **The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.** (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father. (ESV)

Yesterday, a brother of mine from a pentecostal church I have attended gave me a cross keyring (it's like a rosary without the beads) with the following verse on it:

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (ESV)

I truly believe that we receive the body and blood of Jesus through faith. Anyway, I have a section on communion later in this document.

Regarding being or becoming a 'good person'. Jesus clearly taught to make the tree good:

I John 2:1-6 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

When it comes to being saved to serve Christ, we can't boast that in some way we earned salvation outside of God's gift/grace:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

Romans 11:32 - For God has consigned all to disobedience (543. *apeitheia* - *willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience*), that he may have mercy on all. (ESV)

We still need to submit to God's righteousness. We were all in disobedience so we all need mercy from God. We all need Jesus' blood to be justified. We're not trying to establish our own righteousness outside of Christ. We all need to be washed by the Holy Spirit:

Romans 10:3 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. (ESV)

Remember commendation comes from God. So if someone says such and such then it requires God's approval. If someone 'compliments' me saying I am a 'good man' for example, I usually just shrug it off. I am actually quite indifferent about it. I'd rather see people come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ himself and praise God for His goodness than receive appraisal from men. I await commendation from God, particularly at day of judgement:

Hebrews 11:1-4 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old **received their commendation**. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

III John 1:11-12 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. (ESV)

Make the tree good is what Jesus has spoken/commanded. This clearly demonstrates our hearts must be cleansed through the gospel:

Matthew 12:33-35 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. (ESV)

Believe the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, accurately, trust in Him. This cleanses the heart. God heals restores us from the inside-out. Believe He came from God. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD, Jesus is Jehovah, believe in the heart that God raised Him from the dead. Continue trusting in God through trusting in Jesus, continue hearing, coming into agreement with and obeying Jesus' word:

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

G3670 homologeo Definition: To confess, to acknowledge, to agree

Romans 10:8-13 - But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (G3670 homologeo) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (ESV)

youtube.com: STOP Trying To Be a Better Christian... {Let Me Explain} So I want to give you an illustration say for example you take a piece of fruit and this represents righteous living, as the Bible commands us to live as Christians.

Now, what I want to say is that Christians spend too much time focusing on the fruit rather than the tree. There are so many Christians that are trying to live right in order to be made, right rather than knowing that they've been made right, so they live right out of that place.

Now, if I was to take a piece of fruit and I was to stick it on a tree that is not a fruit tree, would that make it a fruit tree? Of course not. Why? Because that tree can't produce fruit naturally on its own. But what if we were to look at a fruit tree? How would we know that it's a fruit tree? Because that fruit tree produces fruit on its own. If it's planted in good soil, if it has water, if it has adequate sunlight, that tree is going to produce good fruit naturally on its own. It's not going to stress and strive to produce the fruit. It's going to produce the fruit in due season simply because it is a fruit tree and that's what a fruit tree does.

And this is very similar for the Christian. So many Christians spend their time basically trying to stick pieces of fruit on a tree rather than recognizing that they are a tree that has been made right.

David Mathis "Don't think that becoming like Jesus in his death means that Paul is anticipating that he himself will be crucified, or that we will be crucified, but that he wants us to know Christ as we live in the pattern in which he lived; That we would have his heart, we would have his mind (mindset). We would know him by walking in that mind, in that heart. That's the pattern Paul wants to be conformed to. And knowing Christ by sharing in his sufferings means walking in the footsteps of his self-humbling, and experiencing Jesus' help and the fellowship of having Him near and His resurrection power on the path of our obedience when it's the hardest".

Very well put by David Mathis. I'd say that in obeying Christ and imitating Christ, we endeavour to be found in Him, and He is our righteousness, and He is also our strength. We believe Truth because we believe Jesus. We obey Righteousness because we obey Jesus.

Polycarp 8:1 Let us therefore without ceasing hold fast by our hope and by the earnest of our righteousness, which is Jesus Christ who took up our sins in His own body upon the tree, who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth, but for our sakes He endured all things, that we might live in Him.

Since the real Jesus is Faithful and True, He is trustworthy. If we trust in Jesus then we trust the real Jesus which means we trust the words He spoke. We are teachable by Jesus:

Revelation of John 19:11 - Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. (ESV)

Zephaniah 3:2 - She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God. (ESV)

I still believe that the upward call of God in Christ Jesus may result in some being martyred. Holding to the Truth (remaining faithful to the Word of God) while practicing righteousness (being obedient to Jesus, obedient to His commandments), a person will receive persecution.

II Timothy 3:12 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (ESV)

John 21:19 - (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, Follow me. (ESV)

I Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (ESV)

We must act out our new nature:

youtube.com: The Hidden Snare of Bitterness @time: 4 min 6 sec So when Paul says, "Put it on, this new nature, he means, 'Act it out.'" If you have been created anew after the likeness of God clothe yourselves with godly garments. Now what is clothing? Clothing is what people see. When you put clothing around yourself you give something for people to look at that's presentable. So when Paul says "clothe yourselves, put on your new nature," he means, "let that inner reality that God has created work itself out in visible actions and behaviors and attitudes. Become what you are within."

Mathetes to Diognetus They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others, and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all [others]; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men, and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death, and restored to life. They are poor, yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things, and yet abound in all; they are dishonoured, and yet in their very dishonour are glorified. They are evil spoken of, and yet are justified; they are reviled, and bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honour; they do good, yet are punished as evil-doers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners, and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred. To sum up all in one word—what the soul is in the body, that are Christians in the world. The soul is dispersed through all the members of the body, and Christians are scattered through all the cities of the world. The soul dwells in the body, yet is not of the body; and Christians dwell in the world, yet are not of the world. The invisible soul is guarded by the visible body, and Christians are known indeed to be in the world, but their godliness remains invisible.

Philippians 2:15 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (ESV)

Jesus follows us and supports us:

I Corinthians 10:4 - and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (ESV)

Thanks to Jesus' endurance, His spirit empowers us to live as He lived, and to be conformed to His image. Jesus wants us to practice His love, His faith, His commandments:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** (ESV)

Hebrews 2:16-18 - For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For **because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.** (ESV)

Christ's law is His Torah, Christ's commandments which are summarised in this commandment to love one another as He has loved us:

John 15:12 - **This is my commandment**, that you love one another as I have loved you. (ESV)

Here are some verses that show what the love of Jesus that we should have looks like:

Romans 12:9-21 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:15 - See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. (ESV)

Colossians 3:9 - Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices (ESV)

Galatians 6:2-6 - **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)

Colossians 3:8-10 - But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (ESV)

Dying to the law to make Jesus our Master isn't forsaking Jesus' commandments. When talking about "The Law" the Apostles are usually referring to the Mosaic Law. All Jesus' commandments are grace and truth:

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Isaiah 42:1-4 - Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. (ESV)

Jesus has taught us **how** to love one another, through commandments:

John 15:13-17 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **These things I command you, so that you will love one another.** (ESV)

And we **must** love our family in Christ. This commandment to love our brothers in Christ is a commandment to love our whole family in Christ, male or female:

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

I think saying "neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female" is Paul exhorting people to see that those who have been baptized into Christ are members of Christ, and have an identity in Christ which transcends the worldly categories, similar to saying that a slave has an identity in Christ and so earthly masters should be wary of that fact, being aware that a person in Christ Jesus has an identity that totally transcends the worldly divisions between people:

Galatians 3:25-29 - But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

We become bondservants (slaves) of God, servants of Christ, and we are also brothers in Christ. We don't give up being servants of Christ. Rather we serve Christ and now see each other as family in Christ. In this passage in Philemon, Paul talks about "family of the flesh" as contrasted with "family in the Lord". Paul encourages Philemon to receive Onesimus as more than a slave (of the flesh, like the person's worldly "employment") but as a brother in Christ:

Philemon 1:15-16 - For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. (ESV)

The Apostle John says to be able to know that we are loving the children of God, we must be keeping His commandments. If people are offended at us while we are sincerely from the heart and in reality abiding by Jesus Christ's commandments, we should not be deterred from continuing to try to abide by Jesus Christ's commandments. We may, sometimes need to be corrected into better obedience, but it's not the commandments which are at fault:

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

Even the Gentiles wait for **His** (Jesus') Law (Torah):

Isaiah 42:1-4 - Behold **my servant**, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for **his law.** (ESV)

We must have faith in Jesus to be justified by faith. God justifies the person who trusts in Jesus and since we trust Jesus we should be doers of Christ's law (which is not outside the law of God, so we are doers of the law), and God justifies the person with the blood of Jesus. If we're trusting in Jesus then we're trusting in God who justifies the ungodly. We're not trusting in God to justify our ungodliness, but to justify us as we keep our faith in Jesus:

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified**. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

God's strength does not guarantee that we will not suffer as a result of following Jesus. But God gives us the power at the time we need it to endure the suffering:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** (ESV)

youtube.com: Sanctify Christ as Lord @time: 21 min 49 sec When I stress that the glory of Christianity is that **God wants His name to be hallowed through your hoping in what He does for you rather than for what you do for Him, that does not lead to passivity.** It never has in the history of the Christian church.

The people that believe that most dearly and most intently have the **Holy Spirit working not instead of them but inside of them**, stirring them up to maximise their enjoyment of the grace of God shed abroad in their labours.

God took the sting out of death and He took the futility out of labour, so that He says, "You will mount up like wings like eagles. You will run and not grow weary. You will walk and not faint." His power doesn't take the joy of meaningful labour and productivity away from up.

It gets under it. It gets behind it. It gets in it. It gets in front of it with reward.

It empowers it so that it's satisfying and freeing and liberating and you come to the end of your day wonderfully weary, not excruciatingly weary.

The main point of the message is that God's name and His Son's name should be hallowed in our hearts and it should be hallowed best when we hope most in Him.

Quote from John Piper God took the sting out of death and He took the futility out of labour, so that He says, "You will mount up like wings like eagles. You will run and not grow weary. You will walk and not faint."

AMEN to that!

I don't think that it's always the case though that we will not be "excruciatingly weary", particularly if there is a big calling on the person:

Luke 12:42-49 - And the Lord said, Who then is the **faithful and wise manager**, whom his master will set over his household, **to give them their portion of food at the proper time?** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, My master is delayed in coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will

cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. **Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.** I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:8 - For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. (ESV)

II Corinthians 4:8-12 - We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. (ESV)

I think we certainly can get very weary. But waiting on the LORD our strength is renewed:

Daniel 7:25 - He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to **change the times and the law**; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (ESV)

Isaiah 40:31 - but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (ESV)

youtube.com: Post from Hangin Out With Stan Commented, 'Satan also "over-encumbers you" too, I think to try to get a person to no longer walk in the truth. We're supposed to walk by faith and love. So we wouldn't "rest" from love ever. Like Jesus also loved till the end. We might rest from our "works", sure, but never from love, and never from faith. Satan tries to wear out the saints of the Most High and steal our rest and tries to pressure us into breaking faith with God. But God provides strength to get through difficult stuff.'

The followers of Paul the Apostle live by (walk by) faith; those are the righteous ones. It's a lifestyle:

Galatians 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. (ESV)

The crown of life is gifted to those who are obedient, and have been tested. I think this verse can also be taken in the literal sense:

Revelation 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be **tested**, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)

Jesus will manifest to those who keep His commandments:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Even the Apostle Paul explains that our freedom is for serving one another:

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.** (ESV)

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. **Love the brotherhood.** Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

Our freedom is so that we might live to God:

Galatians 2:19 - For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. (ESV)

Psalms 119:45 - And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts. (NASB)

God is our life. We must love, **obey**, and hold fast to Him. Faith is not without obedience, but we are to obey Jesus Christ and to believe in Jesus is to have begun to obey Him:

Deuteronomy 30:20 - loving the **LORD** your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. (ESV)

God is our life because Christ is our life. Our life is hidden with Christ in God:

Colossians 3:1-4 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (ESV)

Obey God, obey Jesus. This doesn't say that obeying the 10 commandments is not important. To love God and your neighbour in truth from the heart is the way to do this. But **Mark 10:17-21** does say that following Jesus (treasuring Jesus, His words and putting them into practice) is vitally important:

Mark 10:17-21 - And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, **You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.**

To get to know Jesus, we **must obey** His commandments:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

Christ Jesus has set us free to serve God, living for Him. Obeying Christ Jesus, we are found in Him:

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

In Christ Jesus seek to follow the pattern of His life to get to know Him, and He gave us commandments to follow to do that. Faith in Christ Jesus is not just a belief in the head but faith is trusting Him, and trusting in Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Both our belief in Him and obedience to Him flow from our trust in Him. Anyone who claims to have come to know Jesus but does not do what Jesus says is a liar and they are not in the truth:

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

Galatians 2:1-5 - Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. (ESV)

Yes, Jesus has set us free, but it's to serve God by serving Christ. We are freed in order to love and serve God:

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. (ESV)

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. **Love the brotherhood.** Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

Daniel 7:27 - Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; **His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'** (NASB)

Song youtube.com: Satellite - Let Freedom Ring {Live at Eastercamp 2013}

Slaves worship idols. Christians obey God, and in obeying God we are free. We love God and trust God and love Jesus and follow Jesus:

Exodus 20:2-3 - I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. (ESV)

In believing we have eternal life, but we need to continue in obedience to Jesus Christ or will not see life, so there should be a change of behaviour. We should have changed to serve God:

youtube.com: Romans 16 19 Bob Fitts {@isbaptist} Be excellent in what is good; Be innocent of evil; Be excellent in what is good; Be innocent of evil; [Chorus:]; And the God of Peace will soon crush Satan; God will crush him underneath your feet!

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

When we are in God's rest, God continues working in us:

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ**, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Forgive one another in Christ and be obedient, and hold no grudge for those in darkness, but try to be the light of the world to them, show them the love of God and the truth of God. Be obedient to Christ in everything that we are not outwitted by Satan:

II Corinthians 2:5-11 - Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are **obedient in everything**. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (ESV)

Luke 17:3-4 - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, I repent, you must forgive him. (ESV)

Even if "apeitheó" is better translated to "not be persuaded", trusting in Jesus Christ is still obedience. Unless you believe that trusting in Jesus is disobedience, which it is not. It's obedient to trust in Jesus because He commanded it in John 14:1. They're not separate things. A heart that is persuaded to trust Jesus is an obedient heart:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (*pisteuōn*): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to trust" / "to believe" / "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing" / "trusting."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. *katechó* Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who **confesses and forsakes** them will obtain mercy. (ESV)

We must not deny the faith. The type of faith we must have is a love for the truth. Not a demonic faith.

It's unrighteous to take away from those depending on you what they need to survive on. You can give *yourself* away for others completely (like how the widow gave all the had), but not give *other* people away completely for others. Sacrificing one's own children (especially against their will) to save others isn't right. If I gave away my family's only provisions that they needed to "survive" on (i.e. they needed it) to someone else who didn't "need" it, but wanted it or asked for it, then that is a faithless thing to do. How can a person say they trusted in God if they were to give their baby's food in charity and in doing so put their own baby in mortal danger? Faith in the truth doesn't sacrifice children or relatives to help. That would be an unlawful way to provide for relatives. It would be more lawless than Robin Hood's stealing to give to the poor and closer to murdering to give to the poor. Obviously if it is not required for dependents to survive on, as the head of the household they can make the call to give family provisions to help others in need. True faith in God trusts God and trusts His precepts and commandments, and loves the truth, loves His precepts. True faith in God doesn't hate the truth (like a demon would hate the truth) but true faith loves the truth:

I Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (ESV)

In the family of faith, we ultimately share all things, and since all we have belongs to God, and since we **must** love our family in Christ, it's evil to not be a "good Samaritan" to those in the body of Christ who are in need:

Acts 4:32 - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. (ESV)

I John 3:17 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

Also those who are in Christ we should treat as family, and I think it's right to share evenly with our wider family, even in a survival situation:

I Timothy 5:1-2 - Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father. Treat younger men like brothers, older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, in all purity. (ESV)

The passage in I Kings 17:8-16 shows a clear exception to the rule. Because Christians have commandments and doctrine which is different to this specific commandment to feed Elijah. She acted in faith in this situation after hearing "For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth":

I Kings 17:8-16 - Then the word of the LORD came to him, Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, **I have commanded a widow there to feed you.** So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand. And she said, As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die. And Elijah said to her, Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. **For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.** And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah. (ESV)

On a different but related topic (i.e. not regarding taking care of dependents), I wonder though, did Elijah end up eating it and on this specific teaching regarding "every prophet who orders a meal in the Spirit does not eat it, unless he is indeed a false prophet" is the Didache correct? It seems like Elijah ordered a meal in the Spirit. I agree wholeheartedly with the remainder of this didache excerpt. For example, I agree with "But not every one who speaks in the Spirit is a prophet but only if he holds the ways of the Lord." And I agree with "And every prophet who teaches the truth, but does not do what he teaches, is a false prophet. And every prophet, proved true, working unto the mystery of the Church in the world, yet not teaching others to do what he himself does, shall not be judged among you, for with God he has his judgment for so did also the ancient prophets.":

I'll let the Didache speak for itself here But not every one who speaks in the Spirit is a prophet but only if he holds the ways of the Lord. Therefore from their ways shall the false prophet and the prophet be known. And every prophet who orders a meal in the Spirit does not eat it, unless he is indeed a false prophet. And every prophet who teaches the truth, but does not do what he teaches, is a false prophet. And every prophet, proved true, working unto the mystery of the Church in the world, yet not teaching others to do what he himself does, shall not be judged among you, for with God he has his judgment for so did also the ancient prophets. But whoever says in the Spirit, Give me money, or something else, you shall not listen to him. But if he tells you to give for others' sake who are in need, let no one judge him.

II Corinthians 3:14-18 - But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord (3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*), are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) who is the Spirit. (ESV)

We love others, even those who hate us. And we endeavour to never render evil for evil, but do good to all. We don't render evil for evil:

Matthew 5:38-48 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, **Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have**

your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate (3404. miseó, 3404 miséō – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Romans 12:21 - Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.** (ESV)

Proverbs 24:17-18 - Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him. (ESV)

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

Comments on the news about this tragedy I recognise it's a horrifying situation. God is the avenger. Put no confidence in the flesh. Putting our faith in guns and security teams is not what Christianity is about. Christians should not be killing people. God does use people in government and in law-enforcement etc. but rendering evil for evil is not what Christians are commanded to do (I Thessalonians 5:15). We're supposed to overcome evil with good. In this life we are called to "do good to all" and we must love one another in the family of Christ with agape love, and we're blessed if we are persecuted for righteousness-sake. I think that "stealing or lying or killing" in order to "save" is not practicing righteousness. Strong Christian faith looks like endeavouring to not sin while trusting God. (**I Peter 4:19**) Do we trust God will take care of us even when things "appear" to be precarious? We walk by faith and not by sight. Worldly wisdom would say "Shoot the person dead before he kills anyone." Walking by faith, a person would be seeking to keep God's commandments for us, and not want to sin against God, as we hate sin and fear God, and if God wills it, we live or die, or will be here the next day. But God is our avenger. Walking by faith would look like trying to imitate Jesus who was obedient to God even to the point of death on a cross.

Mark 8:35 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (ESV)

Satan can't take our eternal life in Christ from us. I don't believe in "killing to save". It's not the way.

Our intentions in helping people are supposed to be towards giving mercy, but not at the cost of sacrificing our own children - that would be hypocrisy. Agape love lays down one's own life for others but doesn't steal in order to give or and doesn't sacrifice the needs of one's own dependents in order to bless someone else. The parents are obligated to support their children who are depending on their parents to provide for them what they need to survive. Not what they need to live in luxury, but what they need to survive:

Isaiah 58:6-7 - Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? (ESV)

II Corinthians 12:14 - Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For **children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.** (ESV)

Good works must be done in love. Love is not strictly the works, but is from the heart. And the love we have is a love of the truth, not a love of sin:

I Corinthians 13:1-8 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but **rejoices with the truth.** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

One person's luxury might be what someone else could really use as an act of mercy. When I was pretty young, like about 12, I'd say, I lived on the Gold Coast in Australia. I had a Sega Master System which I got in a pass-the-parcel at I think it was my Japanese friend's birthday. My mum and dad had met a new young family who lived in the neighbourhood who were struggling. I can't remember if this new family were Christians, but mum and dad were really involved with their "bread of life" ministry. Mum and dad got permission to go to Brumby's bakeries and pack from their shelves unsold food and distribute it to people who needed it. I think that might be why we were there at this new family's house. I remember going around there to visit them with mum and dad. I remember their dad just like toasting mouldy bread because they couldn't afford food. And then I remember mum asked me to give up my Sega Master System and the video games to give it to the new dad. Mum was really excited about the idea. I was gutted. Mum really wanted me to give it away. Dad also I think thought it was a good idea. I remember complaining very much. I wasn't happy. But I didn't need it to survive on. I think my parents made an executive decision to give it. In retrospect, it's a blessed memory. To give up what you don't need to help someone else. It's something that I didn't need to survive on. My parents made the call to give it. They made the right decision.

And we must not neglect our family in Christ:

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

Remember commendation comes from God. So if someone says such and such then it requires God's approval:

Hebrews 11:1-4 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old **received their commendation.** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commands himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commands. (ESV)

III John 1:11-12 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. (ESV)

Who is to say God can't justify by faith alone? Is JP's teaching here useful? I think it is. JP is taking from the word. We must continue abiding in Jesus' teachings though. We've got to be taught by, coming into agreement with and confessing the same Jesus Christ as the Apostles.

I think JP is OK here to state a position on how faith in Jesus, being justified and placed into Christ and sanctified while obeying the truth for a sincere brotherly love, working by love gets a person to heaven. He's simply helping others by stating his understanding/this position (at the time he said it) of the process of salvation and getting to heaven. It's not up to us to say that Jesus can't save someone by faith alone - I think He could. But it's accurate to use other parts of scripture to talk about how to "get to know God, be brought to God, 'get to heaven'", as JP has done here. If we get to heaven with love for Jesus then I think that qualifies us to "get into heaven". Repenting, turning away from sin is an act of love to God I'm sure as it's obedient to Jesus.

I actually think there is a false dichotomy made between faith and obedience which is where the confusion lies.

The fact the Scripture says that God's righteous one lives by faith is no reason to believe that we "don't have to obey God". Faith is in no way in opposition to obedience. "Living by faith" does not mean a person cannot also be living by obedience. A person can trust and obey at the same time, as Abraham did.

Hebrews 10:37-39 - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

A person either obeys the truth or they obey unrighteousness. It's one or the other:

Romans 2:8 - but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

A person either prefers light to darkness, or they prefer darkness to light:

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

A person either has faith in the truth, or faith in a lie. Even trusting in idols is trusting in lies:

Jeremiah 29:31 - Send to all the exiles, saying, Thus says the LORD concerning Shemaiah of Nehelam: Because Shemaiah had prophesied to you when I did not send him, and has made you trust in a lie, (ESV)

Jeremiah 28:15 - And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah, Listen, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. (ESV)

Isaiah 42:17 - They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, You are our gods. (ESV)

Habakkuk 2:18 - What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! (ESV)

Sin does not proceed from faith in the truth. So we should be trusting in the truth, trusting in God, trusting God's commandments, obey God rather than anything else. So we need to be trusting and obeying Jesus:

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

We have to have true faith, and have faith in the truth. We must abide in the teaching of Christ, though. We need to have faith in the real Jesus Christ:

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (ESV)

We need faith in Jesus:

Revelation of John 14:12 - Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (ESV)

1 Clem 50:1-4 Ye see, dearly beloved, how great and marvelous a thing is love, and there is no declaring its perfection. Who is sufficient to be found therein, save those to whom God shall vouchsafe it? Let us therefore entreat and ask of His mercy, that we may be found blameless in love, standing apart from the factiousness of men. All the generations from Adam unto this day have passed away: but they that by God's grace were perfected in love dwell in the abode of the pious; and they shall be made manifest in the visitation of the Kingdom of God. For it is written; Enter into the closet for a very little while until Mine anger and Mine wrath shall pass away, and I will remember a good day and will raise you from your tombs. Blessed were we, dearly beloved, if we should be doing the commandments of God in concord of love, to the end that our sins may through love be forgiven us.

Luke 7:47 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)

John 8:11 - She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.]] (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us**; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

By faith we obey Christ including His commandment to have faith in Him:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Faith in Jesus can be regarded as proof:

I John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (ESV)

Justin Martyr says, "Wherefore **those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him.**":

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}
And God, the Father of the universe, who is the perfect intelligence, is the truth. And the Word, being His Son, came to us, having put on flesh, revealing both Himself and the Father, giving to us in Himself resurrection from the dead, and eternal life afterwards. And this is Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. He, therefore, is Himself both the faith and the proof of Himself and of all things. Wherefore **those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him.** But since the adversary does not cease to resist many, and uses many and divers arts to ensnare them, that he may *seduce the faithful from their faith, and that he may prevent the faithless from believing, it seems to me necessary that we also, being armed with the invulnerable doctrines of the faith, do battle against him in behalf of the weak.*

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

G3670 homologeo Definition: To confess, to acknowledge, to agree

Romans 10:8-13 - But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (**G3670 homologeó**) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

Matthew 23:10 - Neither be called instructors, for **you have one instructor (G2519 kathégétés), the Christ.** (ESV)

Zephaniah 3:2 - She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God. (ESV)

kathégétés Definition: Teacher, Leader, Guide. Meaning: a leader, teacher, guide, master.

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — (ESV)

Romans 15:17-18 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, (ESV)

Faith is commanded so is inseparable from obedience. It's the real gospel, the one that calls people to obedience by word and deed. Obedience which leads to righteousness. The elementary doctrine/teachings/commandments of repentance from dead works and faith towards God - these are commandments. But there are more teachings/commandments and we have to not pervert the oracles of God but continue abiding in the teachings/doctrines/commandments of Christ:

Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We've got to continue in Jesus' teachings/commandments:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Those who find a place for God's word in their heart, those who are of the truth, who receive God's word, they listen to what Jesus has said. They are not repulsed by Jesus' words, nor are they repulsed by Jesus' commandments. They are not repulsed by who Jesus is, and they are not repulsed by what Jesus has done as recorded in Scripture:

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

John 8:37-47 - I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. **Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.** He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? **If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.** (ESV)

John 6:45 - It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. **Everyone** who has heard **and learned** from the Father comes to me— (ESV)

Jesus' commandments are rock-solid and they are eternal:

Matthew 7:24 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

We can trust Jesus' commandments as we trust Jesus Himself. If a person keeps them out of love for Jesus, with faith in Jesus, God can do some awesome stuff in and through that. Even the commandment to "give to the one who asks", for example, might be met with 'worldly' wisdom to deter someone from trusting God. Distrust for Jesus' commandments deters people from keeping them. But if we obey them out of faith and love for Jesus (and do so in a lawful way, not like a Robin-Hood way, for example), God absolutely sees our efforts in maintaining a good conscience keeping His commandments seeking to please God and not man. He can really use people who are keeping Jesus' commandments in faith:

Hebrews 6:10 - For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. (ESV)

Thinking with faith in Jesus, maintaining a good conscience with God, believing He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him, trusting in God for the outcome, God is not so unjust that He'd punish us for acting in faith. If God works all things for good for those who love Him, and the one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one that loves Him, and since suffering for righteousness-sake is a commendable thing in God's sight then we can trust God to use our obedient commandment-keeping (especially Jesus' commandments) towards our good or for the good of others.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

A person might question whether or not they are managing to keep Jesus' commandments "well enough". They might even tell God something like, "I'm not going to do it unless You do this for me first." But when testing happens, they end up actually doing what God wants them to do:

Matthew 21:28-31 - What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, Son, go and work in the vineyard today. And he answered, I will not, but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, I go, sir, but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, The first. Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. (ESV)

Also, where we fall short in keeping Jesus' commandments, He's still our Master and He's perfect:

Galatians 2:17-21 - But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. (ESV)

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer says it like this, "Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes."

Read gbtseminary.org: Cheap Grace: Bonhoeffer and the Cost of Discipleship - Grace Bible Theological Seminary

Read goodreads.com: The Cost of Discipleship Quotes by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I can't say I agree with everything Bonhoeffer is purportedly said to have believed, but as I said at the top of this document, just because I have quoted some pastors and authors does not mean that I affirm everything they have ever said, but I have selected quotes which I have found to be relevant and helpful:

Read newcriterion.com: The ambiguous witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer | The New Criterion

Although I can see how listening to Jesus and having faith in Jesus can be seen as being obedient to God, God having commanded us to do so, I also understand that it's God who miraculously purifies our heart as we put our faith in Jesus.

John 13:7 - Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. (ESV)

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

These people remained faithful to God:

Romans 11:4-6 - But what is God's reply to him? I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal. So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. (ESV)

Dr. Michael S. Heiser Salvation is not gained by moral perfection. It is a gift that comes by grace, through faith (Eph 2:8-9). That in turn means salvation cannot be lost by moral imperfection (Galatians 2:17-21). What is not at all gained by performance cannot be lost by poor performance. Salvation is about believing loyalty - trusting what Jesus did to defeat Satan's claim and turning from all other gods and the belief systems of which they are a part [See quote].

Gratitude is not precisely faith. Faith isn't deluding oneself. Faith is trusting and hoping and receiving and loving the truth. Faith is not lying to oneself or trusting in lies. Faith continues trusting for more of God's word and remains loyal to God. Gratitude does not encompass faith. Otherwise Abraham's faith would simply look like gratitude. But our faith should look like Abraham's faith.

Grace through faith comes before gratitude, not the other way around. Gratitude isn't the activator of grace, but faith is!

Luke 17:11-19 - On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. When he saw them he said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And he said to him, Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

Gratitude instead of guilt? If the following "verse for the day" means gratitude instead of "fear of God" (love for God and hatred of sin) then the following "verse for the day" is demonic. Grace does have prerequisites, the prerequisite is faith. Otherwise noone could go to hell.

Romans 3:29-30 - Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. (ESV)

The prerequisite is just not "works of the law." The prerequisite is faith in Christ. The prerequisite is obedience to Christ's commandments, His law of faith.

I found a misleading word for today today from <https://versefortheday.com/todays-verse-reflection/> that contains a demonic lie, can you spot it? It's in the first line of the reflection. The lie is "grace has no prerequisites":

1 October 12, 2025 October 12, 2025 Alona
2 Reflection on Today's Verse from Romans 3:24 - October 12th 2025
3
4 Reflection on Today's Verse
5
6 Grace has no prerequisites. It doesn't wait for perfection-it meets us in our brokenness and calls
7 God's love and begin resting in it, we find freedom from striving.
8
9 The cross is not a ladder we climb; it's the bridge already built. Today, let grace quiet your inner
10 fully loved-just as you are.
11
12 Personal Prayer
13
14 Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of grace that I could never earn. Help me to rest in the
15 instead of guilt.
16
17 Teach me to extend the same grace to others that You've so freely given to me. May my heart reflect
18 name, Amen.

But if we have faith in the blood of Jesus, in the fear of God seeking mercy, then we may find grace:

Romans 10:6-13 - But **the righteousness based on faith** says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? **The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)**; because, if you confess (G3670 homologeó) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For **with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.** For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes (G4100 pisteuōn, believing) in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

Job 4:6 - Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope? (ESV)

However, I do also believe in the imputed righteousness that we can have from God who is the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus, and that's the righteousness of Jesus. However, God is the justifier, the one to grant this righteousness, and I maintain the hope that God will justify me or has already justified me as I continue in obedience. I think this is the right way to think about it.

Luke 16:15 - And he said to them, You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. (ESV)

Receiving Jesus, we have the 'right', the 'authority' to become children of God, even by receiving Him through the knowledge of His name (**onoma**):

John 1:12 - As many as however received Him He gave to them authority children of God to be to those believing in the name of Him (Interlinear)

OK, so we have the right to call God our Father if believe on Jesus' name. So we should definitely renounce ungodliness, and live holy lives:

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

We are disciplined so that we are not condemned along with the world. The way I read this... we are disciplined so that we may be found in Christ because those in Christ are not condemned. So when is a person found **in Christ**?:

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

If we are trusting in Jesus we are not condemned. I guess then our trust may falter in various ways even resulting in disobedience and Jesus may judge us and discipline us to correct us. So long as we are trusting in Jesus we are still found in Christ. So we don't want our faith in Jesus to fail:

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

Our salvation looks like being cleaned up by His spirit, behaving in a way now reflecting that we have knowledge of God (i.e. godliness), and not worldliness, treasuring God and one another, and letting go of treasuring/valuing worldly things, with hope for eternal life. This purification of the heart leaves us with a "desire" to do good works:

Titus 2:11-13 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people**, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (ESV)

God's grace trains/has taught us to **renounce ungodliness**, and renounce worldly passions and then live discreetly and righteously and piously in this present age - to repent from sin and practice godly behaviour in the present world, which is full of wickedness as we are in the end times.

Titus 2:11 Has appeared for the grace - of God bringing salvation to all men

Titus 2:12 instructing us that having denied - ungodliness and - worldly passions discreetly and righteously and piously we should live in the present age

Is repentance from sin necessary for salvation? Yes. We renounce the sinful habits and God cleans us up as we obey Him by faith. The liberty that God provides is not being a slave/servant of sin/corruption. God's grace trains us / has taught us to renounce sin, and to live holy lives with holy behaviour in this present age:

II Peter 2:14-20 - Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an **heart they have exercised with covetous practices**; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, **they allure through the lusts of the flesh**, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. **While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption**: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour (KJV)

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who **confesses and forsakes** them will obtain mercy. (ESV)

If a person is unrepentant from sin then it is better that their body is destroyed so their spirit may be saved. In the case of the thief on the cross, his body **was** destroyed. If he stayed around, he probably would have renounced ungodliness and pursued holiness:

I Corinthians 5:1-5 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

We should disobey sin, and present ourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and our members as **instruments of righteousness to God**. We should be practicing righteousness, practicing love and holiness and truth:

Romans 6:12-13 - Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you **obey** its lusts, and **do not go on** presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but *present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.* (NASB)

We need to receive the Holy Spirit:

Quote by John Piper Hold fast in obedience to what you have heard and believed.

Father God loved Jesus, Jesus loved us, we love God back by loving Jesus back by keeping Jesus' commandments, and Jesus sends His Holy Spirit to us, and we come to know Jesus intimately:

John 15:9 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

We love in the way Jesus loved us, which is how God loved Jesus:

John 17:26 - I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them. (ESV)

John 17:23 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (ESV)

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

I John 4:13 - By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (ESV)

God loves Jesus, God loved us first through Jesus. Jesus loved us. Love comes from God. We then endeavour to love one another in the way Jesus loved us, passing forward this love. We don't take Jesus (God the Son) out of the equation, nor do we take Father God out of the equation. We were loved first by God:

I John 4:9-10 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

Jesus and Father God manifest to those who keep His word and obey Him:

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Quote by John Piper Hold fast in obedience to what you have heard and believed. John 14:22 really bothers some people. John 14:22, here's what it says: "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." This is not unconditional love. This is profoundly **conditional**. I'll read it again: "Lord how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and **not to the world**, to us - we are your disciples. If anyone loves me he will keep my word and my father will love him - In a way that he doesn't love everybody! My father will love him, and We will come to him to that one who loves us and keeps our word. We will come to that one, make our home, our abode, with him. There is an experience of intimacy and at homeness with Jesus and the father that comes only through **obedience**. Those who love me so much that keeping my word is **not** the works of the law, but the overflow of their affections for Me - and how could we not move into such in such a heart with the *fullness* of the at homeness that you longed for. If anyone keeps My word, holds fast treasures it, in **obedience**, that person will not be quenching the spirit, that person will not be grieving the spirit, but will know the fullness and sweetness of fellowship with the Father and the Son. If you're watching pornography every week, do not expect this experience - you won't have it. If you're harsh with your wife, you won't have it.

AMEN!!

An unconditional promise:

Genesis 9:11 - I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. (ESV)

A couple of conditional promises:

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV)

Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first **commandment with a promise**), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. (ESV)

youtube.com: Accept the Holy Spirit - Derek Prince Sermon @time: 9 min 47 sec I don't believe you can be saved without meeting Jesus. I don't mean that you mean that you meet him visibly as the disciples did but I don't believe there's any way into the true church of Jesus Christ except Jesus. He said, "I am

the door. By me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved." So I believe this is a pattern for the new birth for every person. We have to meet Jesus. Not just believe a Doctrine or join a church, but have a personal encounter with the resurrected Christ and receive from him the in breathed Breath of God which is the Holy Spirit and become a new creation. We pass from death to life. I remember when I met Jesus face to face, not visibly, but face to face in an army barracks room in the British Army in World War II. I didn't have any doctrinal knowledge of Salvation. I couldn't say I was born again. I didn't know what you had to do to be saved, but believe me I was saved. Later on I got the doctrine. But I'd met Jesus and I just want to tell you dear friends that you cannot meet Jesus and stay the same. You can join a church and remain unchanged. You can believe all sorts of things with your head and remain unchanged, but when you meet the resurrected Christ it's transforming and it's permanent.

youtube.com: Jesus Is Not Just A Prophet Or A Guru @time: 3 min 52 sec I'd been deeply involved in yoga. And when I was challenged with the gospel and the presentation of Jesus Christ, I simply was not able to acknowledge Him as Son of God and Messiah until I had a tremendous deliverance.

That was the first deliverance I was ever in, it was the middle of the night, it was in an army barrack room. I was flat on my back on the floor and I have no idea how many demons came out of me. But many. And the moment that yoga demon left I knew that Jesus is the Son of God, I didn't have any more doubt.

When I was born again of the Spirit, in faith I confessed Jesus - I wasn't told "this is Jesus here making you born-again" - I asked Jesus to save me, and then continued walking in faith, believing I had an experience with God, so I believed God existed, but I sought then to demonstrate my faith to Jesus in my walk, through my inward thoughts, my prayer life with Jesus, my outward actions and my outward words:

Romans 8:23-25 - And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now **hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.** (ESV)

Then after a month I confessed Jesus a second time after "giving God my first-fruits" in response.

OK, so in response for being forgiven and born-again, we should live to serve God through serving Christ, getting to know Christ, and **disobeying sin.**

Romans 7:1-4 - Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress. Likewise, my brothers, **you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.** (ESV)

I was born-again on the 1 day of Nisan (the Feast of Firstfruits).

The Feast of Firstfruits was a festival commanded by the Lord that took place within the Passover celebration. One of seven feasts of the Lord, the Feast of Firstfruits was celebrated in the Jewish month Nisan (roughly late March to early April). The Feast of Firstfruits served as a reminder to the Israelites of God's provision in the Promised Land. Ultimately, the Israelites were to acknowledge that God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt and provided them a place to live and grow crops (Deuteronomy 26:1-11).

I believe that if I am disobeying sin and obeying Jesus then I am cooperating with Jesus as He fights for me to overcome the sin and to put the sin to death:

Colossians 3:5 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (ESV)

That is the obvious conclusion. I should not be a hypocrite about it.

youtube.com: Jeff Vines - Ready or Not: Here Comes Temptation Pt 2 - 21 November 2024 @time: 5 m

Trial and temp[tation] - are they the same? No. But a test in your life either takes you closer to God or takes you farther away from God, depending on your response. A test is a test until you respond inappropriately at which point it becomes a temptation. Now please stay with me, this is so important, you are going to encounter all kinds of stuff and it's either going to make you grow in your relationship with God or it's going to take you further away from God, but you will not remain the same.

youtube.com: I Fell Short Of God's Glory... Again {@MarcTheMessengerLive} @time: 1 min 24 sec

You're going to fall short many times. Your flesh is going to get weak. Um and you know, you're going to start to entertain those thoughts. And let me tell you guys, man, whenever you fall short of the glory of God, you got to get back up instantly because if you stay down, if you stay in your sin, it's going to be a lot harder to get back up. And one thing about sin, right, is that we're giving that spiritual talk. Every every sin you do, whether it's willfully or unwillingly, you're opening up a door in the spiritual realm for these demons to come in, for these strongholds to build in. And every time you just give into your willful sin, you're building a stronghold.

We must receive Jesus in humility *but avoid falling into sin and not cause other believers to sin / lead them into to sinning* because there are major consequences:

Matthew 18:3-10 - and said, Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. **Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away.** It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

youtube.com: Judgment is coming. It's time to go to WAR. Join me in this prayer against human/sexual

Lord of heaven's armies, I'm calling on you right now. You said, "Ask and we shall receive." You said, "Knock and the door will be open." I know that you are a great and mighty God. I know that when you give a command, no one can turn it back. I know that you are who you say you are. I know that you are a God of justice and that you hate lawlessness in every form where it is found. I'm praying right now for everybody that is being harbored against their will, every man, woman, and child that's being held in a house right now who's being sold for a price... In Jesus' mighty name... for someone else's gratification, self-gratification. Lord, I pray that you would send out an angel that a legion of angels right now to deal speedily with this wherever it is going on. I pray that justice would roll like a river.

Jesus has set me free, and there's no condemnation for those who are in Christ, but we should have a response of love for Jesus, and live to serve Jesus, and it's very, very important to embrace sanctification, and to put a stop to willful sin.

desiringgod.org: The High Cost of Sexual Sin | Desiring God I'm trying to explode the doctrine that the

battle for obedience is optional because only faith is necessary for salvation. This is very tricky the way words are used here. The battle for obedience is **absolutely necessary** for salvation because it **is** the fight of faith. The **battle for obedience is absolutely necessary for getting to heaven** because it **is** the battle against unbelief. **It is** the fight of faith. There are **not two battles**: one to get yourself saved by a single act of faith, and the other to collect rewards by work. There is only **one battle** - it's the one that

gets you started, it's the one that gets you there, and it's the fight of faith not works! Faith is what severs the root of covetousness, misplaced shame, anxiety, lust, envy, and six more before we are done this year. There is one warfare, and it is the warfare of faith.

AMEN!! If only someone had told me this first. Repentance (metanoia) from sin is an **important** part of salvation.

The love of the truth (treasuring the truth) must be received and accepted to be saved:

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

Psalms 145:20 - The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. (ESV)

People will put their trust in and love what is false:

II Thessalonians 2:11 - For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe (G4100 pisteuo) what is false (G5579 pseudos), (NASB)

Those people who did not have faith in the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness may be condemned. True 'pistis' faith involves an agape love of the truth as I Thes 2:10 shows:

II Thessalonians 2:12 - in order that all may be condemned who did not believe (G4100 pisteuo) the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The love of the truth involves faith in the truth (which agape-loves the truth) and sanctification (being corrected, cleaned up by the truth through trusting and obeying the Truth, trusting and obeying Jesus Christ):

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

youtube.com: HOW CAN WE BECOME HOLY? {@FatherSpyridonROCOR} Love for God is the beginning of every virtue. And love for the world nurtures evil within us. Love of the world cultivates rejection of holiness, rejection of God. If we love the world and the things of the world, we are rejecting God. And of course, Jesus said, "If any man loves the world, he cannot love the father. The love of the father is not in him."

Agape love not only assents to but rejoices with the truth:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

Jesus will clean us up as we obey Him. He'll set up opportunities to obey His commandments:

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

And we have this desire to follow the Lord and then this spirit of fear begins to rise up, the spirit of man begins to rise up and it begins to shake, and instead of us pushing deeper into the Lord and believing that it's going to happen, we allow that to begin to push it down, and we give in, and we give in... No, that's the moment when the Lord is doing a work. You see, when you give your life to Jesus, when you say I'm going to follow You, the Holy Spirit is going to convict your heart. He's gonna shake you. And you're going to see areas of your life where you're like, "Man, I'm not trusting the Lord... I'm not pushing in... I'm not believing the Lord that He's going to be faithful..." And all of a sudden He kinda shakes us. And this is the moment, **not** to like give in, this is the moment to **push in**. This is amazing. Why? Because you're not to live by the spirit of the world anymore. You're not to live by the flesh anymore. You're not to allow the things of the world and what other people say to distract you from what the Word of God says. My brothers and sisters, the Apostles pushed in. They believed. It didn't happen this day, fine, it's going to happen. Well how do you know it's going to happen? Cause He said so. Well I don't see it. Doesn't matter. My faith is not in my sight. My faith is in Him and if He said it, it's going to happen. ... Cause even in the midst of this faith, the Lord is moving and He's getting things out and He's preparing us to live in the fulfillment of that blessing.

We obey Jesus' commands. We disobey sin and obey Jesus:

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

We are brought into being cleaned up by God as we obey Him:

Titus 2:11-15 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you. (ESV)

James 5:19-20 - My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (ESV)

I Peter 1:14-25 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

If we receive him then we are born of God - infants in Christ, and grow up to become children of God:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

We get to call ourselves children of God, and we forsake sin:

I John 3:1-11 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who **confesses and forsakes** them will obtain mercy. (ESV)

All who hope in Him purify themselves. And during this sanctification process, we still get to call ourselves children of God:

I John 3:1-11 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

Forsaking sin is important for salvation:

I John 3:14:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (ESV)

I John 3:14 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. (ESV)

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV)

I John 4:6-13 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (ESV)

We are called to belong to Jesus Christ and to be saints, and in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation. So we should, by faith in Jesus, obey God, obeying Jesus:

Romans 1:1-7 - Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you **who are called to belong to Jesus Christ**, To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

John Piper - We should rely entirely on the righteousness of Christ imputed to us by faith alone as the ground of God being 100% for us after which necessary sanctification comes.

This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

I don't think repentance from sin is a separate issue from salvation but is a continuation of accepting the gospel. We continue to believe the Truth, being washed in the Truth, God's Word, and alongside that our souls are being purified through obedience to the Truth, God's Word. Jesus is the Son of God, the Word of God, the Word of God made flesh. God's spoken Word is the Word of God. Jesus' Words are also the Word. We trust, believe and obey the Word of God, and this repentance is absolutely necessary for salvation.

We must embrace sanctification, and be slaves of God, obeying God, obeying righteousness:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (ESV)

Romans 6:20-23 - When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But **now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life**. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

At the end of sanctification, the age to come and eternal life:

Luke 18:29-30 - And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life. (ESV)

I recognize that I am a sinful person and still need God to justify me through faith in Jesus Christ, not of my own works. I think that "sinful" (i.e. having indwelling sin) is more accurate than saying "sinner" for someone who God has given a new heart and spirit.

Luke 5:8-10 - But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men. (ESV)

youtube.com: Cliffe Knechtle on the Protestant vs. Catholic vs. Orthodox Debate {@TCNetwork}

I'm making these comments for posterity. Firstly, I consider Cliffe to be a brother in Christ. 6:12 Cliffe says, "I'm a dirty, rotten sinner." - I believe that Christians actually change from serving sin to serving Jesus Christ, so while Christians are tempted and do sin, Christians now are fighting a battle against sin, seeking to obey Jesus. So there's a different way of using that word sinner. Born-again regenerate Christians are doing battle against sin. In a sense they have stopped being sinners when they are born-again. While they still "have" indwelling sin, they are being sanctified, and they stop committing it, and at the end of sanctification is eternal life.

Christians are actually saved not only from sin but from sinning, from committing new sin until they're perfected. But God not only sent Jesus Christ to die for us while we were still sinners, but He makes us born-again, spiritually regenerate and sends us His spirit while we are sinners and cleans us up as we hold our faith in Him and obey Him.

6:25 Cliffe says, "I'm a follower of Christ because I need God's forgiveness because I've messed up." - This is a good attitude.

6:32 Cliffe says, "If I think that my faith in Christ has produced a morally superior person named Cliffe Knechtle, I have parted company with reality." - While Cliffe speaks for himself here, I think that when a person becomes born-again they receive a new heart, the fear of God is put in their heart they seek to serve God. And we are saved through sanctification and faith in Jesus. And we're cleaned up. We are saved from dead works to serve the living God and getting cleaned up through sanctification is necessary.

Titus 2:14 - who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

I Peter 4:1 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:9-12 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:5-7 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;

Romans 6:12-13 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (NASB)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Being dead to sin seems to not mean "unable to let indwelling sin reign in our mortal body", so it seems that being dead to sin and having been set free (and sin no longer having power over oneself), it's still possible for a person to then "let sin reign in the mortal body" (allow it to reign), and we definitely do not want to allow sin to reign in our mortal body. I think what Paul is saying here is that we have been set free from sin and that to let sin reign after you've been set free would be something like a king allowing his enemy to reign in his own kingdom. Rather than doing that, we should be walking in faith and obedience to Jesus Christ:

Romans 6:11 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 6:12-14 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (ESV)

Being baptised into Christ, becoming a slave of righteousness, being set free from sin, I assume, also involves becoming obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which we are committed:

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Having become a slave of righteousness, the fruit we get leads to sanctification and at its end eternal life:

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

I do believe that now. After receiving the Holy Spirit, we must use the spirit to put sin to death, and stop willfully sinning. Committing sin against our own bodies is very, very unwise:

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

The Apostle Paul still recognises that we are supposed to have a heart of obedience to Jesus. And I imagine the others who Paul came into an argument with were also concerned about going on without love. In return for the grace given to us, we are supposed to love Jesus back in obedience to His commandments:

Galatians 2:10 - Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do. (ESV)

Those who teach others to disobey Jesus, calling Jesus' commandments contrary to grace, are not being humble:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. (engbsb2020eb)

We're not being set free from Jesus - we're getting married to Him. But Jesus indeed did give us freedom. We can resist people who try to put us under a yoke of slavery, but we don't teach people to disobey Jesus as to do so is to teach pride and lawlessness and against trusting in Jesus, and against obeying Jesus, and against believing Jesus regarding all the warnings about disobedience and disbelief, and I think it's without the fear of God to teach others to disobey Jesus.

Yes, Jesus has set us free, but it's to serve God by serving Christ. We are freed in order to love and serve God:

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. (ESV)

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. **Love the brotherhood.** Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what **credit** is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

Daniel 7:27 - Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; **His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'** (NASB)

God gives grace to the humble (not the self-righteous). That is true. But recognising your own sin and calling it sin is humility. And in wanting to turn from it, God may give grace to do so:

James 4:6 - But **he gives more grace**. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

youtube.com: HUMILITY to receive CORRECTION so you can GROW in Christ. {@MarkHemans} @

Jesus said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Humility is acknowledging the truth of God's word and repenting. While you justify your sin, you're in a state of pride and rebellion against God. But when you humble yourself and you say, "Yes, Lord. Yes, God. I recognize that you are right and I'm wrong." That's where it all begins. That's when the kingdom of heaven will be manifest in your life. You can be born again. You can start walking with the father in righteousness, joy, peace, and love when you say, "You're right and I'm wrong."

We are supposed to have a response of **repentance from sin**. God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance from sin. And turning from sin is a loving response to grace given:

Romans 2:4 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (ESV)

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ is available for all who believe. It is received by faith, and God is the one who justifies us. We must hold faith in Jesus and seek God's justification. We don't justify ourselves. Faith **continues**. I think it's really important to believe, trust in and obey Jesus since that's what Abraham's faith was like - it was believing, trusting and obedient:

Romans 3:20-26 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that **he might be just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

Those in the kingdom of God hold faith in Jesus and serve Jesus:

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

And we serve in the strength that God provides. If we find ourselves in a position to demonstrate serving others out of love, and the Scriptures have a lot to say about what that love looks like (such as in the 10 commandments. See **Romans 13:9-10**), then we should do so and give God the glory:

I Peter 4:11 - whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

There are commandments from God which even Paul the Apostle regarded as important to follow for all people who serve Jesus, such as the 10 Commandments and the commandments which came from Jesus Himself, including the Golden Rule:

Romans 13:9-10 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Quote by John Bunyan Interpreter explained, "This parlor is the heart of a man which has never been sanctified by the sweet grace of the Gospel. The dust is his original sin and inward corruptions, which have defiled the whole man. He who began to sweep at first, is the Law. The maiden who brought and sprinkled the water, is the Gospel. "You saw that as soon as the man began to sweep, that the dust thickly swirled around the room, and became even more difficult to cleanse, nearly choking you to death. This is to show you that the Law, instead of cleansing the heart from sin—does in fact arouse sin, giving greater strength to it—and causing it to flourish in the soul. **The Law both manifests and forbids sin—but it has no power to subdue sin.** "Again, you saw the maiden sprinkle the room with water, upon which it was cleansed with ease. This is to show you, that **when the Gospel comes** in the sweet and precious influences thereof to the heart—then, I say, even as you saw the maiden subdue the dust by sprinkling the floor with water—just so is sin vanquished and subdued, and **the soul made clean, through faith, and consequently fit for the King of glory to inhabit.**"

youtube.com: Servants or Secret Agents? @time: 17 min 4 sec Sin is a power and not just an act. So many people think that sin is like stealing or killing or lying. And of course that is sin, but that's not the main problem.

If that were the main problem, willpower could save us. The main problem is that sin is a power, and it takes captive desires.

The law is good. The Law apart from Christ is not our source of justification but we don't teach people to disobey it, especially those who follow it by faith.

Romans 14:10-14 - Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess (G1843 exomologeó) to God. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. (ESV)

The command to believe is a command to obedience, the obedience of faith. The command to obedience is to Jesus Christ who has fulfilled the law. It's still obedience to law but Jesus is our Master, not the old written code, so it's obedience to Jesus primarily. In other words, it's law-abiding obedience, but you can't obey the law and disobey Jesus at the same time. We're under the commandment of Christ.

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (**not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ**) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

We are commanded to have faith in Jesus, to trust in Jesus, to trust Jesus, to have Christ as our Master, to obey Jesus first and foremost.

Exodus 20:2-3 - I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:1-4 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ**. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:24-26 - By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. (ESV)

While the law of God revives the soul while we are actually meditating on it and doing it, the law doesn't 'save' to perfection, and it finds fault in all of us who have sinned. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory. We need to follow Christ first and foremost:

Psalms 19:7-9 - The law of the LORD is perfect, **reviving** the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. (ESV)

Romans 3:19-20 - Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (ESV)

Psalms 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (ESV)

The Mosaic Law was a *former* commandment, and the Mosaic Law does not save, but we have new commandments from Jesus Christ who saves us as we trust in, have faith in and obey Him:

Hebrews 7:19-20 - On the one hand, a **former commandment** is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the **law made nothing perfect**); but *on the other hand, a better hope* is introduced, **through which we draw near to God.** (ESV)

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

II John 1:4-6 - I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love, that we walk according to his commandments;** this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

The obedience we have in the heart which saves is trust in Jesus Christ Himself where we become trusting, believing and obedient to Jesus, and as we hold fast to His gospel, Jesus brings us to God. God purifies our heart as we hold faith in Jesus:

I Peter 3:18-20 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that he might bring us to God,** being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **because they formerly did not obey,** when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, **were brought safely through water.** (ESV)

And, if we live in the flesh, the sinful passions are aroused by the law to bear fruit for death:

Romans 7:5 - For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. (ESV)

We are not perfected by the law, but by the Spirit:

Galatians 3:3 - Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? (ESV)

Instead we focus on following Jesus first and foremost:

Romans 14:22-23 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

It's not possible to be simultaneously walking in faith and knowing the right thing to do but not doing it. So that means walking by faith involves endeavouring to maintain a good conscience with God:

James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (ESV)

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

The Law is not against the promises of God:

Galatians 3:21 - Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. (ESV)

The promises are still conditional and the promises are reliable. We can trust God to fulfill His promises. Faith and obedience are not mutually exclusive:

I Kings 17:8-16 - Then the word of the LORD came to him, Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, **I have commanded a widow there to feed you.** So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand. And she said, As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die. And Elijah said to her, Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. **For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.** And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah. (ESV)

It's necessary to separate from idolators in order to be received by God and to be sons and daughters to God. There's no partnership between righteousness and lawlessness. And being the temple of God involves turning away from false gods and separating from idolators. II Cor 6:14-8 makes it clear that faith, belief in Jesus involves repentance from sin and walking in God's commandments and including worshiping and serving one True God only. Being a son or daughter of God involves turning away from false gods. God gives the promise and we respond to that promise by turning away from false gods and turning away from other forms of sin, and this turning from sin is necessary to be a child of the Most High God:

II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.** (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:14 - Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (ESV)

The blessing is for both the circumcised and the uncircumcised who have faith in God through Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:5-9 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. (ESV)

While faith is commanded by Jesus, and is one of Jesus' commandments (Christ's law, Christ's torah), God still recognises when people have faith in Him regardless of whether they see it as 'law' or not:

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Romans 4:13 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (ESV)

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, Have faith in God. (ESV)

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

John 12:44 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. (ESV)

Romans 2:14-16 - For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

God wants us to have faith in Him:

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— (ESV)

The Law is not *against* the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Apostles, but we are obedient to Jesus first and foremost:

I Corinthians 14:31-34 - For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, **as the Law also says.** (ESV)

And we are perfected through obedience to the Truth (Jesus) and faith in Jesus as His Spirit sanctifies us:

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by your **obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love,** love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, **not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;** for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but **the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.** (ESV)

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect - love also the ones who hate you:

Matthew 5:38-48 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, **Do not resist the one who is evil.** But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate (3404. miseó, 3404 miséō – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Keep in mind that what Jesus means by "perfect" is possible, because Jesus said the following, and this is how:

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:11 - Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? (ESV)

In Christ, we must "be perfect" in the sense that Jesus means when He says "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." In Christ, we must not hate one another. In Christ, we **must** agape love one another:

Colossians 3:13-14 - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

youtube.com: HOW CAN WE BECOME HOLY? {@FatherSpyridonROCOR} Christ calls the members of his church not just to be good but to be holy. He says be perfect. We must be holy. But when we reflect on our sins, we may be tempted to give up. We may be tempted to think it's impossible for this sinful creature to ever be saintly.

In the fifth chapter of the gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus makes it very clear what holiness looks like. This teaching that we often call the Beatitudes.

Quote by John Piper That's who we are as Christians. When we walk according to the Spirit, we fulfill the just requirement of the law. That is, we keep the commandments, we love. We are doers of the law. Not sinlessly perfect law-keepers. Nobody is nor anybody has been except Jesus, which is why we depend on Him, but rather, radically transformed people, through faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaning on the grace of God that comes to us through Jesus Christ.

We're saved and rescued from idolatry and from other lawlessness, and in order to serve God and obey His commandments as Jesus has taught us to keep them:

Ezekiel 36:25-27 - I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (ESV)

Polycarp 2:1 Wherefore gird up your loins and serve God in fear and truth, forsaking the vain and empty talking and the error of the many, for that ye have believed on Him that raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and gave unto him glory and a throne on His right hand; unto whom all things were made subject that are in heaven and that are on the earth; to whom every creature that hath breath doeth service; who cometh as judge of quick and dead; whose blood God will require of them that are disobedient unto Him.

A short version of my testimony of being born-again and Jesus setting me free:

- Baptised as a teenager in Vanuatu in 2005
- I've been writing software since then
- Life had been hard. I was a slave to the world, to sin and was in darkness (I could only see the world, and didn't have a love for God)
 - I was a hopeless case. I was looking for salvation through working harder, and trying to get ahead of the curve with AI stuff
 - * **Ephesians 2:12** - remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (ESV)
 - I was full of guilt, and I had so much shame and life has always been difficult
 - I didn't have much love for Jesus. I struggled to believe He was for-me.
 - My priorities were not in order. God wasn't my number one love or treasure
- I began seeking God out, particularly in the second half of 2020, and began having bolder faith in Jesus
 - web.archive.org mullikine.github.io: Prayer // Bodacious Blog
 - trying to follow God's commandments from the heart, accountable to God, and getting more confident talking about God
 - began taking steps of faith, believing in God and standing up for what I considered good and condemning what I considered evil
 - * One thing which made me very angry is how big tech was/is using AI to steal GNU software
 - It seems that God was working in my life
 - I think God was working in my heart, making a new heart for me
 - I had begun seeking God, but I still needed God to rescue me from darkness:
- * **Psalms 14:2-3** - The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. (ESV)

- I started researching AI fiction in 2021, invested in the Aletheia AI crypto with their Noah's Ark project for preserving personalities on the block chain
 - I was building Pen.el. Initially the software was
 - * to insulate myself against AI fiction, and
 - * to inform people about what was coming around the corner
 - * as a labour of love for the person I really like
 - * It was like an 'Ark'
 - However, I wouldn't say I was instructed to build it as Noah was, but I thought it was more important for the world for me to do good than for me to get paid work, and as I did this I was saying on Reddit, etc. that people should not use this AI large language model stuff to rule like gods over others
 - Hebrews 11:7
- I got born-again of the Spirit on 2 April 2022
 - I woke up to observing my regenerated 'spirit-man' and called out to Jesus in this spirit body saying I didn't know what was going on but asking him to save me
 - I found out recently this was the 1st day of Nisan
 - <https://www.jhiblog.org/2017/05/29/the-first-of-nisan-the-forgotten-jewish-new-year/>
- I put down the AI stuff and began pursuing God full-time
 - I wrote about God's law written on my heart, for example:
 - web.archive.org mullikine.github.io: The Tapestry of Truth // Bodacious Blog
- I had an immersive vision of healing people with compassion soon after, just 2-3 weeks before Pentecost that year
 - Agape love feels like "A deep longing or very intense treasuring compassion and desperate yearning in the heart for someone to be OK, for them to not perish or be in pain." - This is what it felt like coming out of me.
 - * **John 7:37-38** - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.** (ESV)

I really affirm Marc's message here:

- youtube.com: When You Become Chosen You Will Find Yourself Alone

I'll also add Geoff Winter's testimony:

- youtube.com: Testimony of Geoff Winter, 2017

Romans 10:12-13 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (ESV)

AMEN!!

1 Confessions of faith

I believe Catechisms and creeds are very useful but the catechism is not the personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Remember, a person can take a sacrament without discerning (**G1252 diakrinō**) the body, and people were able to receive Christ before there were modern creeds/catechisms.

I Corinthians 11:28-32 - Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning (G1252 diakrinōn: discerning) the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

So we need to have the love of the truth to be saved.

When taking communion / eucharist, we should have Jesus as our #1 agape love and be taking our cross and following Him:

Matthew 10:37-38 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

When we drink the cup of the Lord, we must drink it in a worthy manner (**I Corinthians 11:24-29**)

- Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

- We must not be idolators

- * Matthew 10:37-38**

- * I Corinthians 10:14-31**

- We must be taking up our cross and following of Jesus

- Matthew 10:37-38**

- John 15:13** - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

- In other words, we should have a law-abiding faith in Jesus Christ

- Matthew 22:36-40** - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments **depend** all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

G1252 diakrinō Discernment That Strengthens Faith

The faithful use of **diakrinō** appears in passages that call believers to sift evidence, reach sound conclusions, and thus fortify trust in the Lord. In Matthew 16:3 Jesus rebukes His hearers for failing to “discern the signs of the times,” implying that right discernment would have led them to confess Him as Messiah. Likewise, Acts 15:9 celebrates that God “made no distinction between us and them, and purified their hearts by faith,” a divine act of discernment that opened the church to Gentiles. Such texts show that careful distinguishing can serve redemptive purposes.

John 5:42-47 - But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

The love of the truth (treasuring the truth) must be received and accepted to be saved:

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

We need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 11:2-3 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (ESV)

So we need to receive Jesus Christ.

When I receive the Apostle Paul's words, I think of myself as receiving Paul. When I receive the Apostle Peter's words, I think of myself as receiving Peter. So I do not think that the Roman Catholic church has some kind of monopoly on the Apostle Peter. But people can receive Christ through receiving Peter through the gospel.

Matthew 10:40 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. (ESV)

I John 5:9-13 - If we receive the testimony of men, **the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.** Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

It's an indisputable fact that God's Holy Spirit of Truth goes to those who obey Him. I think it's important to believe this Truth and it's rock solid teaching:

Acts 5:29-32 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Matthew 12:32 - And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

We need Holy Spirit to help us to understand Scripture.

youtube.com: The Holy Spirit Will Teach You Everything - Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon {@BishopE}

Karl Barth, the great Protestant theologian from the last century, said, "The claim that God has spoken implies the trinity." And what he meant was if you say God has spoken, which is a basic biblical intuition, that means there must be in God a speaker, we call him the father, there must be a word spoken. We call that the son. And Bart says there must be an interpreter of the word. Why? Because the divine word, that's too much for our little minds to handle. So we need not a human interpreter. He's not going to help us with that. We need a divine interpreter of the divine word.

II Timothy 2:7 - Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. (ESV)

For example, we know that salvation is through sanctification and faith in Christ (II Thessalonians 2:9-13), and sanctification is through faith in Christ (Acts 26:14-20), and that sanctification is also through obedience to Christ (I Peter 1:22-25, Hebrews 5:9). The Scripture says we are saved both through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9) and through obedience to Christ (Hebrews 5:9). The Scripture is not lying, so while we might not understand how that works, we can lean not on our own understanding but trust the Scripture does not lie. We trust what God has spoken. And if we obey God, then His Holy Spirit will come to us, and if we love Jesus Christ and keep His commandments, Spirit of Truth will come to us and lead us into all the Truth (John 14:15-17).

I strongly believe that no matter who baptised you, or which "denomination" we have been part of, that people need to have their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and the church should be leading people to grow in their knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ, rather than "lording" over their flock. People are to be led to Christ and to having their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ where their knowledge of Christ grows as they abide in Him and abide in His love, keeping His commandments. Churches should be teaching Christ's commandments.

youtube.com: I Am The Bread of Life { Praise Nation & Blessed Trinity Choir} @praisenationpgh {@pr

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall not hunger; he who believes in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father draw him.

And I will raise him up, and I will raise him up, and I will raise him up on the last day.

youtube.com: How to go to heaven in each denomination {@redeemedzoomer6053} Hey guys, I'm "Redeemed Zoomer" and today we're going to talk about how salvation works in each Christian denomination, because all Christians worship the same God, all Christians worship Jesus, but not all Christians agree exactly *how* to worship God and part of that is due to different views on salvation.

But first let's talk about what all Christians *do* agree on regarding salvation. All Christians would agree that we're all sinners, ... we all deserve to go to hell, but Jesus, who is truly human and truly God, He died for our sins and salvation is only possible because of Jesus.

Jesus is the only way we can be reconciled to God, and that means you must have faith in Jesus to be saved. And just the way Jesus rose from the dead, we're also going to be raised from the dead to eternal life. So all Christians agree on that stuff. If you don't agree with that you're not a Christian because that's like the core of Christianity.

But in the specific process of salvation, that's where Christians start to disagree.

So I'm going to talk about the Baptist view first because it's the most straightforward and it's what most American evangelicals are familiar with, because Baptist theology has defined American evangelicalism for many years.

...

So, the Baptist view centers on a born-again experience where you go from not Christian to Christian, that everyone is born, you know, not being a Christian, but at some point in your life you need to have this conversion experience, this radical born-again experience, where you go from not Christian to Christian. And this is a completely individual and personal, internal thing. It has nothing to do with whether you grew up in church, has nothing to do with whether you were baptized or how much of a good person you are, it's a complete born-again experience where you go from not believing to believing. And once you have this experience, at that moment, all your sins are forgiven, you get saved so to speak, and most Baptists believe that you're always going to be a Christian, that you're always going to believe, and if you ever stop believing it means that you never truly believed in the first place. Most Baptists, not all, but most, believe in once saved always saved. Even Baptists who don't believe in predestination, even Baptists who have a more free will perspective, tend to still believe in once saved always saved. And it's only after this born again experience that you should get baptized because according to Baptists, baptism doesn't save, it's a symbol that you already have been saved. According to Baptists, you should be baptized by full immersion as believer to represent dying and rising again to new life. They believe that you know because you're a changed person, because you're a new person, you're not going to fall away from the faith, because you truly have been born-again. So that's the Baptist view, but there are many other views not just within Christianity but within protestantism, because there's also the Lutheran view that's very unfamiliar to most American evangelicals.

So Lutheran, because they're Protestant, they do believe we're saved by faith and not by works, we're saved by faith alone. But they also believe that baptism saves and communion saves. How does that work? So they believe that baptism, communion, the scriptures and prayer are these means of grace which God uses to give us faith. So it's only faith that saves, but Lutherans also believe that whenever a baby is baptized, that baby is given faith, that baby has faith as a baby. Now there is you know biblical evidence for infant faith, because John the Baptist had faith as an unborn child. That's also a reason to believe that unborn children are people and we shouldn't murder them just as a side note. But John the Baptist lept in his mother's womb at the presence of Jesus, so that is a sign of a primitive, infant faith. And Lutherans believe that babies who are baptized have this faith and it justifies them. It means that if they were to die, they would instantly go to heaven. But Lutherans believe that you can lose your salvation. Lutheran are not like most Baptists because lutherans believe that baptism always saves a baby when a baby is baptized, but obviously common experience tells us that not every baby who is baptized grows up to be Christian, so Lutherans believe that you can lose your salvation later if you stop having faith, but then if you come back to the faith then you'll be restored to a state of justification. And so Lutherans don't believe you're saved by good works but they do believe that faith must produce good works and that if you live in unrepentant sin you're eventually going to stop caring about the faith, you're going to fall away from the faith, and you will lose your salvation, essentially. Lutherans are often accused of being like antinomian or not caring about good works at all but that's just not accurate, and I'm not even Lutheran but I am Reformed.

So I hold to the Reformed Calvinist view because I'm a Presbyterian and this often gets conflated with the Baptist view but it's very different, because the Reformed and Baptist traditions were historically very different and it's only a very modern thing for Baptists to start calling themselves Reformed. So Reformed Christianity believes in predestination. It's God who decides who is saved and who is not saved, but this cannot be separated from covenant theology. Covenant theology focuses a lot on God's promises. We do baptize babies because we think babies are part of God's covenant, just like they were in the Old Testament. So, whenever an infant is baptized they might not have faith in that moment, so contra to the Lutherans' [understanding]. But they are part of God's covenant. They're a part of God's covenant and you can call them a Christian in a covenantal sense. Even if they might not be elect, they're still a Christian just by being part of God's people, part of God's covenant, they're a Christian collectively even if they're not a Christian individually. So how does salvation work? Well, the primary cause of salvation is just God's decision, whether or not they're elect. But we know who really is elect based on who responds to God's promises. So if an infant is baptized as a baby and then later on they come to faith that shows that their baptism was effective and in that sense baptism saves them. But, if someone was baptized and never comes to faith we would say that baptism didn't save them because baptism is a promise from God in which salvation is offered but that salvation is only actually given to those who respond to that promise with faith. So, Calvinists believe salvation is by faith alone, it's also by predestination because only those who are predestined are actually going to respond to God's promises with faith, if that makes sense. So our view of baptism is complicated, yes we believe baptism technically saves but it doesn't save everyone, it only saves the elect. And the outward part of baptism which is the water sometimes happens at a different time than the inward part of the baptism which is, you know, being born again and having that conversion experience. So, it's complicated but you know there's a lot of things in theology that are complicated like the Trinity and the two Natures of Christ. And a lot of times heresy comes from when we try to simplify a complicated thing in theology. So that's the Reformed view.

Next you have the Catholic view. Now a lot of people straw-man Catholics [saying they believe] we're saved by faith plus works, that's not true. Catholics don't believe we're saved by faith plus works, they believe we're saved by faith but faith includes works and the ordinary means of salvation is through the church. They believe the church dispenses faith, essentially. So Catholics believe that baptism washes away original sin and brings one into a state of grace, but if you commit a mortal sin that sort of 'kills' faith. So they don't exactly believe you're saved by works, they believe you're saved by faith, but they don't think faith is just like a one-time thing. They think faith is like a living organism that can be killed off by mortal sin, and if you do commit mortal sin you need to go to confession and do penance to be restored to a state of grace. And they believe that as long as you die in a state of grace, as long as you've been baptized and you don't have mortal sin, you're going to be saved eventually but you still might need to be purified, so that's

what purgatory is for. Now, Purgatory isn't really extra punishment, it's not like Jesus's sacrifice wasn't enough to pay for your sins, it's just that when you die you're probably not perfect, you're probably not good enough for heaven yet. You probably wouldn't even enjoy heaven because you're not purified enough. so purgatory is just extra sanctification, it's just extra purification. And the Catholic Church believes that generally the church has the authority to give the sacraments, to give baptism too, you know, basically, be the 'guides' of your salvation. But modern Catholics are a bit more open-minded and they don't necessarily think that God is bound [only] to the [Roman Catholic] church. They believe God could work outside the [Roman Catholic] church even if he ordinarily does work through the Roman Catholic Church.

Okay, now let's get to the Methodist or the Wesleyan view of salvation. So, methodists generally believe in free will. Now, there are some calvinistic methodists like George Whitfield, but generally methodists have a strong belief in free will, they tend to reject predestination. They also tend to believe in two different, you know, moments in your salvation journey. The first work of grace is when you make the free will choice to accept the gospel. But you need to constantly be striving for the second work of grace which is entire sanctification. So methodists really depart from classical Protestants, believing that it's possible to reach a state of Christian perfection where you are fully sanctified in this life. So technically Methodists do believe we're saved by faith alone but they believe that once we are saved we need to constantly be striving for perfection and that if we're not constantly striving for perfection then we might lose our salvation. So just like Lutherans, methodists believe that we can lose our salvation, but unlike Lutherans, Methodists have a much stronger view of the necessity of good works and the possibility of achieving final sanctification. And the holiness tradition basically emerged out of Methodism because they thought the Methodists weren't 'Method-ing' hard enough and they wanted to really focus on, you know, this part between the first and second works of grace where you really need to be striving for holiness, if you have a true faith. So it can often sound like methodists believe salvation is by trying really hard, if that makes sense.

All right, now let's get to the Pentecostal view which did emerge from the Methodist and Holiness views but they add a third work of grace. So the first work of grace is, once again, where you start being a believer, and they believe that you are a Christian once you are a believer but you might not be a "spirit filled" Christian, because Pentecostals really focus on the fruit of the Holy Spirit which 'normally'/'[usually]' includes speaking in tongues. So they believe that Spirit baptism is actually a different thing from coming to faith. Most other Christians think that, you know, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that's just being born again, that's just when you come to faith. The Pentecostals tend to think that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate event that happens after you become a Christian. So yeah, you might be a believer, but you're not a Spirit-filled believer yet and once you are a spirit fill believer then you have the gifts of the Spirit which 'usually' includes speaking in tongues, and then only then you are empowered to work for that final sanctification that we talked about with the Methodists. And, you know, Pentecostals are a very diverse bunch and there's not really Pentecostal confessions of faith so a lot of Pentecostals might believe different things but this is generally the model of how salvation works according to Pentecostalism. There are some Pentecostals that are heretical that deny Trinity they're called "Oneness Pentecostals". Oneness Pentecostals are heretics - they're not Christians - because they deny the Trinity and The Trinity is like the most basic belief of Christianity. But there are also a lot of Trinitarian Pentecostals so, they're not technically heretical.

All right, now let's talk about the Eastern Orthodox view of Salvation. Now, debates about salvation are mostly a western thing, so Eastern Orthodox soteriology is not very developed and they don't like to talk in these legal terms for salvation the way Catholics and Protestants do, but generally their view of Salvation is theosis. I mean, all Christians believe in theosis of some kind, but they believe that theosis is how we should talk about salvation. We should talk about salvation as just union with God, that we are polluted, not necessarily totally dead in sin the way Calvinists believe, we're just corrupted, uh, but through the mysteries and the sacraments of the church we can be united with God and therefore purified. So, because they believe salvation is by theosis they tend to believe salvation is sanctification and sanctification is salvation. They don't really make the distinction that Protestants make between justification and sanctification and according to Orthodoxy there's no way to know if you are saved or are not saved it's just a lifelong process and the more united you are to God the better of a chance you will have at salvation in the hereafter. Another thing they believe, I mean I'm not sure if this is like an official confessional belief (a commenter has said "In Orthodoxy, the idea that Heaven and Hell are the same place is controversial and not shared

by all, or even most, Orthodox Christians.”), but they generally say that heaven and hell are the same place but depending on how united to God you are in this life, the same afterlife might feel like heaven or hell to you. So if you are **really** united to God, if you’re a devout Orthodox monk who meditates for many years, the presence of God after you die is going to feel like heaven, but if you’re a sinner who totally rejects God, totally rejects Jesus, and just lives a life of complete vice and self-indulgence, the presence of God is going to feel like hell. That’s the standard Orthodox belief and some of them believe in toll houses but since not all of them believe in that I’m not going to go into that here.

1.1 The order of salvation

I plan on adhering to what the Word of God says, even if it offends other Christians when it comes to contentious topics as the order of salvation, or salvation by obedience and I want my theology to be ‘raw and real’, and always Scriptural.

The gospel in a nutshell:

Acts 26:14-20 - And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads. And I said, Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may **turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God**, that they may **receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me**. Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance**. (ESV)

Acts 28:25-28 - And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: Go to this people, and say, You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should **see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn**, and I would heal them. Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen. (ESV)

The general order of salvation from what I can dilvulge from **Acts 26** and **Acts 28**:

- See with their eyes
 - **II Corinthians 4:6** - For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (ESV)
 - **Isaiah 42:6-7** - I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. (ESV)
 - **Luke 4:18-19** - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind**, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. (ESV)
 - **John 8:12** - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)
- Hear with their ears
 - **Matthew 11:15** - He who has ears to hear, let him hear. (ESV)

– **Romans 10:17** - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (ESV)

- Understand with their heart

– **Romans 10:10** - For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

- Turn from darkness to light

– They believe the truth, and place their faith in Jesus

* **Ephesians 1:13-14** - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

– They believe in / trust in Jesus Christ's name

* **Acts 10:43-45** - To him all the prophets bear witness that **everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.** While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. (ESV)

– They become trusting to God, persuaded in the heart, believing and obedient

* **John 3:36** - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheō*) the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

* **Hebrews 11:8** - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

- Turn from the power of Satan to God

– Satan stops controlling them. God starts working through them, as we believe and obey, and our house is built.

* **Philippians 2:13** - for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

* **Psalms 127:1** - Unless the LORD (3068. *Yvhv* - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (ESV)

· If Jehovah builds the house then those who build it **do not labour in vain**

* **Luke 6:48** - he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. (ESV)

* **II Timothy 2:24-26** - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him **to do his will.** (ESV)

- * **II Corinthians 5:1-3** - For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. (ESV)
 - * **Hebrews 3:4** - (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) (ESV)
 - It means loving Jesus which involves obeying Jesus including His commandment to trust Him and His other commandments. Jesus is preparing the place for us. Like a bridegroom for their bride, Jesus is building an extension:
 - * **John 14:1-7** - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to **prepare a place for you?** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going. Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. (ESV)
 - * <https://israelmyglory.org/article/coming-for-his-bride/>
 - A local onlooker told us both families had arranged the marriage and that the couple had an unnecessarily long, drawn-out betrothal. According to ancient Jewish marriage custom, the man uses the betrothal period to prepare a home for his bride and himself in his father's house. The bystander told us the lazy bridegroom had needlessly delayed the marriage by procrastinating his building of an extension to his parents' house.
 - Sin is forgiven **as** a person turns from darkness to light and turns from satan's will to God's will
 - **Acts 26:18** - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)
 - God heals
 - Sanctification is received through working faith, obedience, belief, trust - receiving healing, being renewed in mind, being conformed to Christ's image
 - * **Luke 8:15** - As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (ESV)
 - * **I John 4:17** - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)
 - * **I Peter 1:14-19** - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)
 - Receive the inheritance
- God is the justifier, not us:

Romans 3:26 - It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just **and** the *justifier* of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

God raised Jesus up on the cross of Calvary and word got around with the preaching of gospel the Kingdom of God, so that those who trust in Him and believe Him, putting their trust in Him for who He is (the Son of God, the Messiah, our Lord and Saviour) and what He taught might be saved from the wrath of God and have eternal life.

I also take John 3:14 in the sense that in a way God still does this to remind us. For example, with the popular TV series the Chosen, I feel like God has reminded the world about Jesus.

John 3:14-19 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than (G3123 mallon, rather/more than, in preference to, instead of) light, because their deeds were evil. (KJV)

Jesus is brought into the spotlight. Those who would put their trust in Jesus, believing in Him are not condemned.

I really like John MacArthur's church's doctrinal statement. I just think it's helpful and quite accurate, but I may have my disagreements.

I think it's correct that the meaning of the Scripture is the Truth and I think that's really good way to read the Scripture, to seek it's meaning, because the meanings of the words are very important.

I try to not lean on my own understanding but trust in God and endeavour to obey/be obedient to Him:

Proverbs 3:5-8 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. (ESV)

Psalms 143:8 - Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. (ESV)

Jeremiah 17:5-7 - Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. (KJV)

I Corinthians 15:3-5 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9-10 - And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. (KJV)

When we are born of God, I believe we have willed/done something which is in God's will. John 1:12-14 I think shows that when a person's will becomes God's will through believing (4100. *pisteuó*) faith in Jesus Christ's name, they have the authority to become children of God:

John 1:12-14 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the *right* to become **children of God**, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

By a sovereign act of God in giving us His Word we are born-again of His will by His word - through faith in His Word:

James 1:16-18 - Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. **Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (KJV)

1.1.1 What does Jesus want us to do? Continue in Jesus teachings, have faith and obedience towards Him

Do Christians have to do anything? Yes. They've got to do the will of God. I think it's perverting the scriptures to say we have to 'do nothing' or that obedience to Jesus is in conflict with faith in Jesus. People pervert the scriptures their own destruction. We follow Christ's law/commandments. Even to believe in Jesus is to be obedient to the elementary doctrine of Christ. We have to do the will of God.

Right after the parable of the soil, Jesus says this:

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

For what?	What do we have to do?	Verse ref
To receive eternal life	Be sanctified through being an obedient slave of God, obeying Him obeying Jesus' commandments	Romans 6:20-23 - When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)
To be destroyed	Twist the scriptures and be carried away by the error of lawless people	II Peter 3:14-18 - Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
To be saved	Trust in, believe on, trust, obey the Lord Jesus Christ	Acts 16:30-34 - Then he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in

For what?	What do we have to do?	Verse ref
To have our hearts purified	Have faith in Jesus	Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)
To have our souls purified	Obediently obey Jesus's commandments to agape love our family in Christ	I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)
To receive the inheritance	Be sanctified by God's training grace through faith in Jesus	Titus 2:11-13 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (ESV)
To receive the inheritance	Walk in love, put away sin	Ephesians 5:1-5 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (ESV)
To have eternal life	Continue doing the will of God	I John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

For what?	What do we have to do?	Verse ref
To have God draw near to you	Draw near to Him. Give up idols, believe He exists, be corrected by and come into agreement with what He has said, even be corrected by Jesus, turn from sin, etc.	Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV) James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV) James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV) Hebrews 7:23-28 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him , since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)
To have Jesus to remain in you	Remain in Him. Continue in the teaching of Christ. Practice righteousness, serve Jesus.	John 15:1-6 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spo-

For what?	What do we have to do?	Verse ref
To have been loved by God	Be any human, even those who will be condemned (because God did love everyone, offering Jesus)	Thus so (Houtōs) (in this way) did God love (G25 <i>agapaó - value, treasure</i>) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. <i>monogenēs - unique, only begotten</i>) Son that (G2443 <i>hina - in order that</i>) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 <i>pisteuo</i>) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting. (Interlinear) God loved us before we love Him back. That's the same way we must love others. We are called to love those who hate us. I John 4:6-19 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins . Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear

To be loved by God	Receive Jesus. Agape love Jesus Christ and believe He came from God	John 16:25-28 - I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, <u>because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.</u> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.
To be loved by God	Keep Jesus' commandments	John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)
To be hated by God	Reject Jesus, continue on in walking in darkness rather than accepting His grace	John 15:22-24 - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but <u>now they have no excuse for their sin.</u> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now <u>they have seen and hated both me and my Father.</u> (ESV) John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV) Psalms 11:5 - The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. (ESV) Proverbs 28:9 - If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (ESV)
To be Jesus' disciple	Abide in Jesus' word	John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews <u>who had believed</u> (4100. <i>pisteuó, pepisteukotas</i>) <u>in him,</u> If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)
To be sons of God	Imitate God. Love even those who hate you	Matthew 5:43-48 - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love

Jesus wants us to live holy lives:

I Thessalonians 4:1-8 - Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

Holy Spirit gives life. Jesus' words are spirit and life:

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ. Perhaps to distinguish this verse from Romans 6:14-15, it could be written "law-abiding" to Christ's law, rather than "under":

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

We're not anti-law (G459 anomos). We're not without law. We're not lawless. Rather, we're pro-Christ's law and we're law-abiding (G1772 ennomos) to Christ's law.

anomos vs ennomos https://www.wenstrom.org/downloads/written/word_studies/greek/nomos.pdf

But notice how the phrase "under law" is written differently for Romans 6:14-15 and means something a little bit different. The english translations should probably rather use a different word in I Corinthians 9:21 to help distinguish one from the other:

Romans 6:14-15 - For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law (G5259 hypo (G3551 nomon) but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! (ESV)

G5259. hypo by, under, beneath, through

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1 3756 1510      5259  3551
2 ouk esmen      hypo  nomon
3
4 not we are     under law
5 Adv V-PIA-1P Prep N-AMS
6
7 235 5259 5485
8 alla hypo charin
9      ?
10 but under grace
11 Conj Prep N-AFS

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And we're not under law because Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. But rather, we are under grace (Jesus is helping us but we are abiding in Jesus' commandments).

"The one having completed all of these external deeds will live" is probably an accurate way to understand "the one who does them shall live by them", as if there entire future is dependent on the completion of all of these external tasks:

Galatians 3:10-13 - For all who rely on works (G2041 ergōn: works, deed, action, task, labor) of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them (G4160. poieó To make, to do, to act, to cause, to work) shall live by them. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—(ESV)

Abiding by Christ's law (Christ's commandments), which is a law of faith (we're not under the curse of the law of Moses) and is not a law of works (**Romans 3:21-31**), is not being under a curse, but, rather is being under grace:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

When contrasting being "under law" to being "under grace", Paul is talking about people who "rely" on the "works" (the exterior stuff) of the law, the Mosaic Law (which came in after Abraham), who are under law. But the law of Christ which we are 'under' (abide in) is a different type of law, and the kind of law that it is is a law of faith. It's about the heart. And like Abraham, we should believe in, trust in, trust, agape love and obey Jesus. And just like Abraham's faith, our faith may be tested and a person may be justified by works, like Abraham's faith and that wasn't "works of the law of Moses" which came in later (to increase the trespass). But we don't "rely" on the justification by works of faith in Jesus, though that type of thing may happen.

Paul in **Galatians 3:10-13** is talking about people who "rely" on the "works" of the law:

Galatians 3:10-13 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them shall live by them. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—(ESV)

Paul here saying that no-one is justified by the works of the law, that is true, but we are justified by the law of Christ, Christ's law being a law of faith.

Romans 3:27-31 - Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

Those who would pursue the Mosaic law that would lead to righteousness must pursue it by faith, not by works:

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

This is why I think Jesus speaks quite abstractly about the way, because the Way is Him. How do you get close to Him? By believing in, trusting and obeying Him:

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

John 6:51 - I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:16-22 - The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. **You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.** Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (ESV)

Jesus is stronger than anything:

Luke 11:19-22 - And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. (ESV)

Luke 4:4-8 - And Jesus answered him, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone. And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours. And Jesus answered him, It is written, **You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.** (ESV)

The redemption is a gift that is received through faith in Jesus, faith in His blood:

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, to be **received by faith.** This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

Faith is commanded so is inseparable from obedience. It's the real gospel, the one that calls people to obedience by word and deed. Obedience which leads to righteousness. The elementary doctrine/teachings/commandments of repentance from dead works and faith towards God - these are commandments. But there are more teachings/commandments and we have to not pervert the oracles of God but continue abiding in the teachings/doctrines/commandments of Christ:

Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

At the start of Jesus' ministry, He was baptised. God commanded us to listen to Him:

Matthew 17:5 - He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him. (ESV)

Jesus commanded us to have faith in God and in Him, to trust in Him, to trust Him, to believe His words, to believe He is the Son of God, the Christ, the Son of Man:

John 14:1 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

We must believe that Jesus came from God, that He is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13):

John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. (ESV)

During Jesus' ministry from His baptism to His crucifixion, He demonstrated real agape love and gave his listeners commandments. Jesus never broke God's law. Jesus never sinned. But He fulfilled the law and loved even His enemies. We want to abide in Jesus' love:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Jesus kept Father God's commandments including the commandment of what to say and speak to us. Jesus' words and sayings and commandments which God gave Him to speak to us are what we should keep. His commandments are eternal life for us:

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

John 13:14 - If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (ESV)

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

Following Jesus, we serve Jesus and abide by correct doctrine, Christ's doctrine:

I Timothy 4:6-11 - If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being **trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed**. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. (ESV)

At the end of Jesus' ministry, after demonstrating love to His disciples, loving the to the end, and having given commandments on how to love as He did, He commanded His disciples to love one another as He did and to observe all His commandments which He had given. So Jesus' commandments and life show us what law-fulfilling love looks like. This is what Jesus has commanded us to do, to love as He did, and Jesus both demonstrated how and gave us specific commandments to do so. Then He loved us by going to the cross and laying down His life for us, demonstrating ultimate love, laying down His life. Also He had not sinned ever. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice for sin, having lived a perfect life and layed down His life for us:

John 15:12-14 - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

The Apostle John says to be able to know that we are loving the children of God, we must be keeping His commandments. If people are offended at us while we are sincerely from the heart and in reality abiding by Jesus Christ's commandments, we should not be deterred from continuing to try to abide by Jesus Christ's commandments. We may, sometimes need to be corrected into better obedience, but it's not the commandments which are at fault:

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

Jesus calls us to trust in Him, to believe He came from God, to believe He is the Christ and Son of God and to love one another as He did. He commanded many other things but these commandments from Him are of greatest importance, to have faith in Him, to believe He is who He is and to love as He did. Believing the facts about Jesus are very important. All His commandments are important and to do with grace and truth and eternal life. Trusting in, trusting and obeying Jesus, are all important for following Jesus. Jesus gives His sheep (his followers) eternal life:

John 17:1-3 - When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

The Apostle John reiterated these two commandments of Jesus, commandments of top importance, to have faith in Him and to love one another the same way that He did:

II John 1:4-6 - I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

We must walk in Jesus' commandments and believe that He came from God:

John 16:25-28 - I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

Christ's law is His torah, Christ's commandments which are summarised in this commandment to love one another as He has loved us:

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

Jesus perfectly fulfilled the requirement of the law by not sinning even once. He never did any wrong:

Romans 13:9-10 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

We should be obeying Jesus's commandments but also sharing His words, His commandments with others, so other people we love and help, learn about Jesus and learn for themselves to have faith in God, and in Him, believe in what God has done for them, how He loved them, and to love God believing what God has done for us, and love God by receiving Jesus and to love God in loving one another has He commandment:

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If **I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.** Truly, truly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master,** nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

We should share Jesus' teachings and commandments with people as we endeavour to keep Jesus' teachings and commandments ourselves, as we want others also to come to know God, to know the love that God has had for them, to have faith in Jesus and in His blood, to understand what God has done for us, and teaching them also keep Jesus' commandments:

Luke 21:1-4 - Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on. (ESV)

II Corinthians 12:9 - But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (ESV)

We love because He first loved us:

I Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. (ESV)

II Corinthians 6:1,6:16-18,7:1 - Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

I John 4:7-21 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

1.2 Children of God, born of promise, have faith in Christ and purify themselves

Genesis 27:41 - Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob. (ESV)

Romans 9:13 - As it is written, Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated. (ESV)

web.sermonaudio.com: DTBM - body, soul and spirit - Dr. John Barnett The reason we're supposed to keep clean and not let our flesh and spirit get defiled is that God made a promise. He says, "I'm going to dwell in you. I'm going to walk among you. I'm going to be your God. You're going to be my people." And this is what we're supposed to do, verse 17: "Come out from among them, be separate. Don't touch what is unclean and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you. You'll be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Boy, that is about the most assuring verse in the Bible. God says, I'm gonna live in you. I'm your father, you're my children. You're going to know and go through life knowing that you belong to me and that I live within you and you're never alone and I'm always with you and all that stuff. What happens if you don't obey the "don't touch what is unclean" part, verse 17? You lose that assurance.

1.2.1 Justification (having access to God's grace) and sanctification (getting cleaned up)

While having faith in Jesus Christ (trusting in Him, trusting Him) we obey Jesus Christ's commandments. That's justification and sanctification working together:

Romans 4:23-25,5:1-2 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

Access the saving grace by faith in Jesus. The grace is for us to be sanctified:

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

The law could not condemn sin in the flesh but God condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us (in order that we might walk in love and holiness), who walk not according to the flesh but according to the spirit (according to the teachings of Christ):

Romans 8:2-4 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

OK, so if we trust/obey Jesus, we receive the Spirit of God, and God sanctifies us as we continue trusting/obeying Jesus.

If we walk according to the spirit, then we may fulfill the requirement of the law. Jesus' commandment to "be perfect" in the way in which He meant is possible with Jesus supporting us with the Spirit of God in us.

We are **in** the Spirit if the Spirit of God dwells **in** us.

And Christ's words are spirit and life. We walk according to His commandments and by faith in Jesus.

It's the standard of teaching that has been committed to us by the Apostles and but especially Jesus Christ Himself that we are to be obedient to:

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

1.3 Entering into God's rest

We are required to rest in a 'sense', but Jesus gives us the rest, and we strive to enter that rest. We don't simply take the rest. Jesus gives it to us. We strive in faith and obedience to Jesus, to keep His commandments, and Jesus gives the rest. So, like with the Israelites leaving Egypt, God was leading them to the promised land and the Israelites had to keep faith in God and continue to keep His commandments, and not regress back into idolatry. And this is the way in which we are also supposed to enter into God's rest, by faith obeying Jesus Christ:

I Timothy 4:7-10 - Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness**; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as **it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come**. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. **For to this end we toil and strive**, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (ESV)

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

I think entering into God's rest is not an act of disobedience, and it's not an act of distrust. The starting point of entering into God's rest might be thought of as the point of repentance from dead works and turning to faith in God:

Hebrews 6:1-2 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (ESV)

But it's clear that this repentance brings us into service to God:

Hebrews 9:13-14 - For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

So it's a continuing thing that submits to God's will, by turning away from wanting to do sin, and turning towards wanting to serve God, serving Jesus, out of faith and obedience, and while entering into God's rest by coming to Jesus may be very quick for some people, it may take more time for others, as they shake off idols, as they are purified in love and holiness. And entering the rest, we rest from our works, but it's God who grants that rest to us on an individual basis:

Hebrews 4:9-11 - So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

See how it's God who **makes** us lie down in green pastures. Jesus gives the rest, but he gives it to His followers, those who trust and obey Him:

Psalms 23:1-2 - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. A Psalm of David. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. (ESV)

So long as I'm being harassed by demons opposing sanctification and holiness, I wont rest from striving obediently to the LORD Jesus Christ. When the God of Peace has crushed satan under my feet then I will rest.

The God of Peace will sanctify me completely:

I Thessalonians 5:19-24 - Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (ESV)

The God of Peace will equip me to do His will so my working will be done in His strength:

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

The God of Peace will crush satan under my feet as I obey Him:

Romans 16:17-21 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The **God of peace** will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen. (ESV)

When we are in God's rest, God continues working in us:

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ,** to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Remember that weeds are removed from God's Kingdom.

Matthew 13:24-30 - He put another parable before them, saying, The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, Master,

did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds? He said to them, An enemy has done this. So the servants said to him, Then do you want us to go and gather them? But he said, No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn. (ESV)

Matthew 13:37-42 - He answered, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

At the close of the age we want to have believed the gospel and we want to be serving Christ and abiding in His love, doing God's will, practicing Christ's commandments:

Matthew 13:49 - So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous (ESV)

I think entering into the Kingdom of heaven as a child of God is entering into God's rest. Entering into God's rest is resting in the spirit of Truth.

Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

We have even more fullness of joy when God commands us:

Matthew 25:21 - His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. (ESV)

1.3.1 What the striving looks like

- Hold the faith
- Trust in Jesus Christ, trust His words, have confidence in Him and His words and His commandments and His work
 - Unite the good news with faith
- Hold confidence with a good conscience, loving the truth, and hating sin
 - **Proverbs 10:28** - The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. (ESV)
 - **Job 4:6** - Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope? (ESV)
- Hold the hope of salvation
- Train yourself for godliness
- Be obedient
- Do the will of God
 - Give up idols

- Love one another as Jesus commanded
- Jesus gives the rest. Jesus grants the rest at some point as we are striving to maintain faithful, trusting faith in Jesus and striving to keep His commandments faithfully

Hebrews 3:1-6 - Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:7-19 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways. As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

I Timothy 4:7-12 - Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. **For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.** Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (ESV)

The 'good news being united with faith' literally means trusting Jesus Christ's words:

Hebrews 4:1-13 - Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest, although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: And God rested on the seventh day from all his works. And again in this passage he said, They shall not enter my rest. Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, Today, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (ESV)

John 11:25-27 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never (G3756) (G3361) die. Do you believe this? She said to him, Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world. (ESV)

ou mé Not at all, never, by no means. G3756 (- no) and G3361 (- no)] a double negative strengthening the denial, "not at all" Strong's Exhaustive Concordance anymore, at all, neither, never

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

Matthew 18:21-22 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. (ESV)

We must follow wholeheartedly:

Numbers 32:11 - 'None of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob; for they did not follow Me fully, (NASB)

Numbers 32:11 - They do not see—the men who are coming up out of Egypt from a son of twenty years and upward—the ground which I have sworn to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, for they have not been fully after Me; (YLT)

1.3.2 The good news to enter into God's rest also went to the Israelites who followed Moses

Hebrews 3:14-19 - For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all **those who left Egypt led by Moses**? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to **whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient**? So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief**. (ESV)

Baptised in water (cloud and sea), baptised into Moses:

I Corinthians 10:1-6 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:2-3 - For good news came to us just as to them, but **the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened**. For we who have believed enter **that rest**, as he has said, As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest, although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. (ESV)

When we are in God's rest, God continues working in us:

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ**, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Do not put Christ to the test by desiring and practicing evil:

- Do not desire evil
- Do not be idolaters
- Do not indulge in sexual immorality

I Corinthians 10:6-14 - Now these things took place as **examples for us, that we might not desire evil** as they did. **Do not be idolaters** as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. **We must not indulge in sexual immorality** as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test**, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore **let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall**. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (ESV)

Revelation of John 9:20-21 - The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (ESV)

This makes it quite clear that we must be law-abiding:

Matthew 13:38-42 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

1.3.3 Keeping our peace with God

The Bible says that having salvific righteousness before God in his sight (in his omniscient sight, he can see our hearts and deeds) and peace in our hearts doesn't take much time. We have to place our faith in Christ. Have faith in God. Have faith in Jesus Christ:

Psalms 78:21-22 - Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, because they did not **believe in God** and did not **trust his saving power**. (ESV)

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Luke 24:38 - And he said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

Do not bear a grudge against family in Christ:

Leviticus 19:18 - **You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD. (ESV)

Matthew 6:8-15 - Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and **forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For **if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.** (ESV)

Matthew 18:32-35 - Then his master summoned him and said to him, You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you? And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. (ESV)

Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)

Receive God's discipline and be transformed to share His holiness:

Hebrews 12:10-11 - For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (ESV)

II Peter 3:14 - Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (ESV)

Be found in Christ knowing Him well as Lord, imitating and passing forward His love for us:

I Peter 5:14 - Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-14 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Believe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 2:13-16 - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (ESV)

Do good. Love your neighbour as yourself:

Romans 2:9-10 - There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. (ESV)

Take care of family in Christ:

Acts 4:31-35 - And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (ESV)

We should bless our family in Christ, and not curse them.

And when we talk about true Israel, what we really mean is those who do the works of Abraham who are Abraham's children who if we bless, we shall be blessed:

Genesis 12:3 - I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (ESV)

John 8:39-42 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

John 6:45 - It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. **Everyone** who has heard **and learned** from the Father comes to me— (ESV)

Be obedient to Jesus Christ in all His commandments for us:

Romans 16:17-20 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Maintain a good conscience, resist evil, remain faithful and obedient to Jesus Christ:

I Timothy 1:18-19 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, (ESV)

We can't be unfaithful to Jesus Christ and expect to have joy. Joy comes from maintaining faith and a good conscience with God. I doubt Peter had joy right after denying being a disciple of Jesus, and I doubt Judas had any joy when he chose to hang himself after betraying Jesus:

Job 20:4-5 - Do you not know this from of old, since man was placed on earth, that the exulting of the wicked is short, and the joy of the godless but for a moment? (ESV)

Hebrews 1:9 - You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions. (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 9:7 - Go, eat your bread in joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. (ESV)

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

We can have Jesus' joy from hearing and trusting Christ's teachings, putting our faith in the Truth of God and from doing His word:

John 17:13-14 - But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (ESV)

This is the road we should be on:

Hebrews 12:2 - looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (ESV)

1.4 Purging the old leaven through obedience to Jesus Christ's commandments while holding faith in Him

Those who continue to obey Jesus Christ will be justified or may be led to justification by faith because to have faith in God and Christ Jesus is commanded:

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

Those who are obedient to Christ, even striving to take every thought captive to Christ, have probably been justified already - though God is the justifier:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (ESV)

We should be obedient to Jesus' commandments without grumbling or questioning:

Philippians 2:12-16 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

We serve Christ as slaves of Righteousness, trusting in Him and His words, and increasing in obedience to Christ as we take captive our thoughts for obedience to Christ:

Romans 6:16-23 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Jesus **always** does what is pleasing to Father God. And we are instructed to increasingly do what is pleasing to God:

John 8:29 - And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 4:1-7 - Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, **that you do so more and more**. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. (ESV)

The work of God is to 'believe' on (have faith in) whom He (God) sent. This is the type of faith which even believes in Jesus and Jesus and produces saving obedience:

John 6:29 - Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

The devil steals the word when people lose faith. The work of the devil is that people distrust God, even after they have received the word of God in their hearts:

Luke 8:11-12 - Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (ESV)

We must not let the devil steal the word of God from our hearts, but continue on in faith in God and in Christ:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly works unless we are referring to God's work that we are doing, God working through us:

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. (ESV)

Having faith in Jesus and obeying Jesus, Jesus is working.

Luke 7:6-9 - And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it. When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. (ESV)

So Jesus having given commandments, if we obey them (while holding faith in Him), Jesus works. This might seem very ordinary, but, actually it's really powerful. It might be really timely, for example, and lead someone to the Lord Jesus Christ and change the whole trajectory of their life, like the butterfly effect.

So Jesus gave rules/commandments to follow such as:

- if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also,
- if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well,
- if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles,
- Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you,
- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
- Sin no more - forsake sin (John 8:11, John 5:14, Prov 28:13).

– **II Timothy 2:21** - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (ESV)

- Obey God

– **Titus 1:16** - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

When the situation arises for us to obey the commandment (which God may simply set up for us), and we keep His commandments, it **may** be attributed as Jesus working. If God is setting up the situations, and we are obeying, then God is providing the growth. We might be under the impression that we are obeying His commandments, but at the end of the day it's God who provides the growth, and God is sovereign to make things grow.

John 21:6 - He said to them, Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some. So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. (ESV)

Analogy If the police put out a rule/commandment to the public, "If anyone sees this person then contact the police." And someone in the community obeyed this rule and phone called the police, then it's as if the police were working through the people in the community. Sometimes the community gets things wrong. So their obedience is useful, ultimately the police decide what phone calls to respond to / accept (i.e. "let grow"). So the obligation of the public is to follow the rules and when we follow God's rules, we do so with faith in God. God is still active regardless of what we do, but that's not incentive to not obey God.

OK, so while the Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station is under the jurisdiction of the United States it is not under the sovereignty of the United States - there is a higher authority. God is sovereign over all things:

Daniel 7:27 - Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.' (NASB)

If we want God to do mighty works among us, then we need faith. We have to believe God can do it and that God does to it:

Mark 6:4-5 - And Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household. And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. (ESV)

Matthew 17:14-20 - And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, said, Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him. And Jesus answered, O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me. And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, **Why could we not cast it out? He said to them, Because of your little faith.** For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you. (ESV)

Jesus is the one with authority. So our own godliness is just in order that God may use us for honourable use. So repenting from sin, obedience to God, walking in holiness and obedience etc. and having faith in God, makes it easier for God to work his miracles amongst us:

John 6:27-29 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, **This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.** (ESV)

Acts 3:12 - And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? (ESV)

II Timothy 2:21 - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (ESV)

James also mentions forsaking sin, repentance, and faith in God's word here:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

What's going on outside is an indication of what is going on inside:

Matthew 23:26 - You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. (ESV)

Matthew 15:19 - For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. (ESV)

We are called to love and pursue righteousness (walking not sinfully but truthfully and lovingly in line with God's precepts), and holiness from a pure heart. We are called also to have our souls purified:

II Timothy 2:22 - So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

The purification of the heart results in practicing righteousness:

I John 3:7 - Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

It's obedience from the heart. In that way it's God's work in us, rather than our own works:

Romans 6:17-18 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Where we used to be disobedient, we are brought into obedience, accepting the gospel, and as we are sanctified by continued obedience to Jesus Christ, we have the hope of eternal life:

Titus 3:3-7 - For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that **being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.** (ESV)

After coming to faith we are called to put on the new self. To speak truth to one another, in love:

Ephesians 4:24-25 - and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)

I think saying "neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female" is Paul exhorting people to see that those who have been baptized into Christ are members of Christ, and have an identity in Christ which transcends the worldly categories, similar to saying that a slave has an identity in Christ and so earthly masters should be wary of that fact, being aware that a person in Christ Jesus has an identity that totally transcends the worldly divisions between people:

Galatians 3:25-29 - But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

Colossians 3:22 - Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (ESV)

Just because a woman person may have an identity in Christ as a son of God (as Paul says neither male nor female), this transcendent reality is not a reason to pervert the natural order of things regarding natural gender. Paul is certainly not endorsing LGBT, etc. or same-sex marriage, and certainly not endorsing that slaves should not submit to their earthly master (**Titus 2:9-10**):

Titus 2:9-10 - Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. (ESV)

Interestingly, I think Jesus is implying by saying that the sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, that a woman may be considered a "son of this age", and it really gets me thinking about what that word 'son' is being used to mean. It's not a natural gender thing:

Luke 20:33-36 - In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife. And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead **neither marry nor are given in marriage**, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are **sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.** (ESV)

And we **must** love our family in Christ. This commandment to love our brothers in Christ is a commandment to love our whole family in Christ, male or female:

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

A person may joke something false, not meaning harm, but speaking falsehood about one another, for example, calling a dude something like 'babygirl' is still speaking falsehood. If someone isn't aware of an in-joke and gets called something false, for example, you don't really know how they could take it, but it might have been done out of ignorance. But corrective action would involve no longer doing that, especially someone felt cursed by it, or it was made apparent to the person who said it that it caused the other person harm:

Ephesians 4:19-27 - They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having **put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.** Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:4 - Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. (ESV)

Obedience to Christ is not against faith in Christ but is a natural consequence of obeying Christ and obeying His gospel, of trusting Christ and trusting His gospel. Taking every thought captive for obedience to Christ is not against trusting in God and in Christ Jesus our Lord, God's Son, and is not against trusting, believe His words.

We are sanctified by, agree with and speak the truth:

Ephesians 5:5-11 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the **sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. (ESV)

We must have faith in God and not be rebellious, but we must be trusting obedient to God and **it is God who works and does miracles through us**. For example, God did amazing works amongst the Israelites as they were liberated from Egypt:

Hebrews 3:7-11 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways. As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. (ESV)

By holding our faith in Jesus and obediently keeping His commandments, we can come to know Jesus - we can know His ways, and we can see Jesus working:

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6) and we must obey the Truth (Romans 2:8). Jesus is our Righteousness (I Corinthians 1:30) and we must obey Righteousness (Romans 6:13-23).

Romans 4:4 is saying there is reward for working for God but that we must accept the free gift of justification through faith in Jesus Christ / through faith in Jesus' blood / through faith in Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice, His passion, death and resurrection, and that justification through faith in His blood comes from work which He did and is totally independant of our work.

Also I think Romans 4:4-8 is saying that we have to recognise that as ungodly people, we needed Jesus Christ to have make atonement for our sin, and that we have to have faith God who has done this for us and we can't deny these facts about God.

It would be silly to say that the Israelites were trusting in their own works as they walked through the Red Sea.

The Israelites were not working as they walked obediently through the Red Sea.

So to the one who "does not work" but trusts Him (the one who justifies the ungodly), trusting/having faith in Christ Jesus, his (their) faith is counted as righteousness. I do not believe that Romans 4:4-8 is saying that it is against salvation to continue working for God as the Apostle Paul continued to do. God works through us. I also don't think that Romans 4:4-8 is saying that ordinances such as baptism are not efficacious for salvation. I think baptism is an important part of salvation, but I still think that God can save without baptism. I also think that baptism should be coupled with faith and turning away from sin. One truth doesn't contradict another truth.

Romans 4:4-8 - Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but **trusts him** who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. (ESV)

Regarding the term "means of grace" used in this video, the sacraments such as baptism and eucharist (
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I think the love that we show one another is a means of grace for our souls to be sanctified. Means of grace are usually referred to the sacrament of eucharist/communion, for example:

I Peter 4:7-11 - The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Just as confessing sins is a means of grace, walking in the light, exercising the same love that Jesus exercised is a means of grace:

I John 1:9 - If we confess (**G3670 homologeó**) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Obedience to Jesus, keeping His commandments is a means of grace:

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

I John 3:20-24 - for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. (engbsb2020eb)

Circumcision of the flesh does not matter because salvation by faith is available for both the circumcised (justification by faith with works of faith like Abraham's), and the uncircumcised (justification by faith alone). But we continue to abide in Christ's teachings/doctrines and the facts about Him and as we learn more of His words commandments, are corrected/salted and sanctified by Him:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe (**G4100 pisteuo**) without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

The true circumcised are the ones who obey the precepts of the law, and if they walk in the footsteps of faith which Abraham had before he was circumcised, then that is a valid mode of justification. But we continue to abide in Christ's teachings/doctrines and the facts about Him as we learn more of His words commandments, are corrected/salted and sanctified by Him:

Romans 2:25-29 - For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. So, **if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?** Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But **a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.** (ESV)

We rest from our own works as we come into God's rest through faith and obedience to Christ Himself (not to religion, but to Christ Himself), and our obedience continues as we let God work through us. We still obey Jesus. God sets up opportunities and we choose to obey Him. It's not burdensome, because there is great confidence in keeping His commandments, that we know God is pleased as we do this, and rewards the faithful and obedient. We just have to take every thought captive for obedience to Christ in faith to Christ. That's no contradiction:

Hebrews 4:8-11 - For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of **another day later on**. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

Paul makes it clear that our own involvement is nothing. Without God it can't be fruitful. But we still obey God:

I Corinthians 3:6-8 - I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. (ESV)

Without God, we can't bear fruit. Jesus Christ who is God is the one who builds His church:

Matthew 16:18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

But we still practice love and build one-another up, and it's Christ, our Head who is building His church:

Ephesians 4:11-25 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)

We should keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the Apostolic tradition:

II Thessalonians 2:13-15 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 3:3-8 - But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to

the steadfastness of Christ. Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us**. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. (ESV)

Regarding the term "means of grace" used in this video, the sacraments such as baptism and eucharist (
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Trusting Jesus to obey Him and to take every thought captive for obedience to Christ is what we are called to do for the salvation of our souls, that we may be sanctified to agape love one another, especially our family in Christ, in the truth from the heart, which is necessary for eternal life. Sin leading to death includes hate for family in Christ:

I Peter 1:6-9 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

I John 3:14-17 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

I John 5:16 - If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. (ESV)

James 5:19-20 - My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (ESV)

I Peter 1:14-25 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

Sin not leading to death may involve saying something false about someone else to someone else, but not meaning any harm to them. Perhaps, an in-joke, perhaps even from an agape loving heart for their family in Christ. However, it's still wrongdoing. Paul calls us to speak truth to one-another, as we put on the new self. This is a holiness issue, and it's important:

Ephesians 4:24-25 - and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:7-13 - Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

1.4.1 Ishmael, the son of the slave women Hagar, shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.

I Chronicles 1:28 - The sons of Abraham: Isaac and Ishmael. (ESV)

Genesis 25:12 - These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham. (ESV)

Ishmael was born according to the flesh:

Galatians 4:18-23 - It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you. Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. (ESV)

Galatians 4:22-31 - For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband. Now you, **brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise**. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, **we are not children of the slave but of the free woman**. (ESV)

It is interesting that Ishmael was circumcised:

Genesis 17:21-26 - But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year. When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. (ESV)

1.4.2 The children of God are children of the promise, but we must belong to Christ

Galatians 3:29 - And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

God blessed the Jews by sending Christ to them first to turn them away from their wickedness. We are supposed to turn from our wickedness:

Acts 3:25-26 - You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness. (ESV)

It's children of the promise who are counted as offspring, Abraham's descendants through Isaac:

Romans 9:6-7 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. (ESV)

Romans 9:8-9 - This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. For this is what the promise said: About this time next year I will return and Sarah shall have a son. (ESV)

Romans 4:13-18 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why **it depends on faith**, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to **the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all**, as it is written, I have made you the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, So shall your offspring be. (ESV)

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

John 8:36 - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:14-15 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (ESV)

All children of God (children of the promise) purify themselves:

I John 3:1-3 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** (ESV)

1.5 Living in observance of the Law is fine, and even encouraged

Paul serves the law of God with his mind:

Romans 7:25 - Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Christian's Mind {@desiringGod} Romans 7:14-25 is a description of a Christian man not a pre-christian man a converted, saved, justified, born-again, Spirit-indwelt man is being described in Romans 7:14-25. This man is new and he is old. This man is spirit indwelt and this man has indwelling sin. This man is dead to sin and he must reckon himself dead to sin.

...

The culprit is not the law, that's the point he's been trying to make through the whole chapter. The culprit is my flesh or as he says in verse 17 indwelling sin or as he says in verse 21 evil that is present with me Any one of those descriptions will do.

...

What about flesh? What does that refer to? It's Not body. We know that because, for example, Galatians 5:20, when it's talking about the works of the flesh, works of the flesh includes things like strife, jealousy, anger, envy, not just immorality. Impurity, sensuality - those are mental, emotional sins, not just physical sins. And the flesh is the origin of those. So what is flesh? I would put it like this: flesh is the untransformed part of Paul's old nature.

...

The flesh can express itself through the mind, the flesh can express itself through the body.

Our war is not against our bodies mainly, it's against the flesh that can set up operations there, and against indwelling sin and against evil and the devil and the world.

Given that Moses had been already been proclaimed in those cities of the Gentiles mentioned, they sought to remind them to observe these 4 things:

Acts 15:19-21 - Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues. (ESV)

God (who knows the heart) gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles who had trusted/believed the word of truth, just as he had given the Holy Spirit to those Jews who had believed, and God cleansed their hearts by faith. The Apostle Peter made a point that he (Peter) and the other Apostles were also relying on the grace of God, believing that they (the Apostles) would be saved, just as the Gentiles who believed would be saved:

Acts 15:5-11 - But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses. The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will. (ESV)

Also, Luke 11:13 says God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. So I think it's typical to believe God, believing the gospel, and to ask God for His Holy Spirit, expecting that God will cleanse our heart through faith, being prepared to continue obeying the truth for a sincere brotherly love:

Luke 11:13 - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (ESV)

The same Apostle Peter made a point here about how we obey the Truth for a sincere brotherly love from a pure heart, purifying our souls. We believe and obey the good news, the gospel:

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by your **obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart**, since **you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God**; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but **the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.** (ESV)

We must serve God from a heart purified by the gospel, purified by faith in Jesus:

- **Step 1 and ongoing:** Believe the gospel (good news), the word of the Lord, the words of Christ (even words such as the sermon on the mount), cleansing our heart by faith. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that the Father is in Him and He in the Father. Believe that Jesus did and does the works of His Father. We believe Father God by believing in Jesus:

– The heart is purified by faith in the Truth, God's Word, Jesus Christ, the Holy Scripture. We believe the gospel, coming into agreement with God's Word. We become single-minded:

* **Acts 15:8-9** - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

* **James 4:8** - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

* **John 5:24** - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and **believes him** who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)

* **John 10:35-38** - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, **I am the Son of God?** If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though **you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.** (ESV)

– Hold fast to the gospel.

- **Step 2 and ongoing:** Love one another earnestly from a pure heart, obeying the Truth who is Jesus and the Truth which is the Word of God, even the Scripture.

– The soul is purified by obeying the Truth for a sincere brotherly love issuing from a pure heart. This obedience to the Truth is primarily continuing to obey Jesus who is the Truth and our Lord and Master and may be done while observing the Law (Torah) which is useful for correction and training in righteousness, but we do not call the Law our Master. We are primarily slaves to Jesus who is our Righteousness. We don't teach against following the Law by faith but we follow Jesus first and foremost and have freedom as we do this, and the law doesn't condemn us as we are following Jesus.

* **I Peter 1:1-2** - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ** and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (ESV)

- Also we continue holding fast to the gospel.
- * **Hebrews 10:37-39** - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)
- **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)
- This heart and soul purification involves our family in Christ. It involves loving and forgiving one another, not wronging each other, and cleansing ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit. It's necessary to separate from idolators in order to be received by God and to be sons and daughters to God. There's no partnership between righteousness and lawlessness. And being the temple of God involves turning away from false gods and separating from idolators. II Cor 6:14-8 makes it clear that faith, belief in Jesus involves repentance from sin and walking in God's commandments and including worshiping and serving one True God only. Being a son or daughter of God involves turning away from false gods. God gives the promise and we respond to that promise by turning away from false gods and turning away from other forms of sin, and this turning from sin is necessary to be a child of the Most High God:
- * **Acts 4:32** - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. (ESV)
- * **II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1** - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.** (ESV)
- "be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you". This is a **conditional** promise. It's not promising *without* the condition. God's promising that **if** we separate from the lawless unbelievers and touch no unclean thing, then He will welcome us and be a Father to us.
- * **I John 3:3** - And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (ESV)
- * **I John 3:15** - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

So you see that whoever hopes in Jesus (has faith in Jesus) purifies himself as He is pure by obedience to the Truth. So this is really about turning away from sin, even after having come to faith in Jesus:

I John 3:2-7 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone**

who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.** Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:34 - Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (ESV)

Sanctified by obedience to Jesus Christ:

I Peter 1:1-2 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (ESV)

web.sermonaudio.com: DTBM - body, soul and spirit When God looks at us, he sees us as spirit and soul and body. But when humans describe themselves, how do they describe themselves? Body, soul, and spirit. It shows what's dominant. Most of us think more about our body, then we think about our soul, and then we think about our spirit. So, real quickly, sorry, we'll never get to the microphones. the trichotomist, the reason that Bill Gothard, Tim LaHaye, and that whole crowd, you know, Charles Stanley, what they're trying to say is, when you got saved, you got a new operating system inside of this old fleshly monster, and this (the soul) is where the storm is. And so what you have to do is choose to allow the spirit to radiate outward and mortify the flesh and control us so that we can walk more and more pleasing to him.

II Corinthians 6:1,6:16-18,7:1 - Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

web.sermonaudio.com: DTBM - body, soul and spirit - Dr. John Barnett The reason we're supposed to keep clean and not let our flesh and spirit get defiled is that God made a promise. He says, "I'm going to dwell in you. I'm going to walk among you. I'm going to be your God. You're going to be my people." And this is what we're supposed to do, verse 17: "Come out from among them, be separate. Don't touch what is unclean and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you. You'll be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Boy, that is about the most assuring verse in the Bible. God says, I'm gonna live in you. I'm your father, you're my children. You're going to know and go through life knowing that you belong to me and that I live within you and you're never alone and I'm always with you and all that stuff. What happens if you don't obey the "don't touch what is unclean" part, verse 17? You lose that assurance.

Psalm 37 is talking about a personal righteousness. Being in Jesus, we should do battle against sin to practice righteousness (purify ourselves as He is pure):

Psalms 37:39 - The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. (ESV)

It's the flesh which is weak thanks to sin in the flesh. But in our inner being, we delight in the law of God. This is definitely true to me:

Romans 7:16-25 - Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

We must rule over sin. I believe that as Christians we're still supposed to do this. And God has given us the power win the fight:

Genesis 4:7 - If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it. (ESV)

Romans 6:11-12 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. (ESV)

Romans 7:20-22 - Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

And whoever doesn't have the heart to do this is of the devil. God cleans us from the inside out. God's seed does not sin. Whatever is born of God does not sin. I think while trusting in Jesus, thankful for what God has done for us, we will naturally produce the type of love and continued obedience which pleases God.

I John 3:7-11 - Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

Romans 7:24 - Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (ESV)

Practicing righteousness is done while in a relationship with Jesus - we do good works by Jesus working in us as we are holding fast to the gospel.

Philippians 2:12-16 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

But also, not only the flesh but worldly people rebel against us when we want to obey God. I get all sorts of opposition against me for obedience to God or when I say we must obey God.

I John 5:19 - We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (ESV)

We must believe in, trust, believe, obey, follow Jesus:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

John 12:46 - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (ESV)

It seems that people can indeed be both zealous for the Law (Torah), observing the Law (Torah), and at the same time be believers in Jesus. Paul wasn't telling people to forsake Moses, as far as I understand, but there was some circulating rumor that he had been doing that:

Acts 21:20-25 - And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, You see, brother, how many thousands there are **among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law**, and *they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.* What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may **shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.** But *as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality.* (ESV)

Colossians 4:10-11 - Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only **men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.** (ESV)

1.5.1 It's interesting that the KJV reads quite differently here, but I'm comfortable with the ESV

Acts 21:20-25 - And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. Do therefore **this** that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law. As touching the Gentiles which believe, **we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.** (KJV)

Proverbs 28:9 - If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (ESV)

1.6 I'm non-denominational

I do not consider myself to be a part of any particular denomination; I have an affinity to churches which have strong Biblical teaching, and a focus on applying Jesus' commandments.

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}
The word of truth is free, and **carries its own authority, disdaining to fall under any skilful argument, or to entice**
But it would be believed for its own nobility, and for the confidence due to Him who sends it.

Romans 14:22 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. (ESV)

Christ the head of the man, and man the head of the wife. Not the Pope as head of the man, but Christ Himself as head of the man.

II Corinthians 11:2-3 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:23 - For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

I Corinthians 11:3 - But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (ESV)

1.7 The Westminster Confession

Read thewestminsterstandard.org: The Westminster Confession - The Westminster Standard

1.7.1 XIII. Of Sanctification

1 I. They who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new
2 spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the
3 virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in
4 them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the several lusts
5 thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they more and more quickened
6 and strengthened, in all saving graces, to the practice of true holiness, without
7 which no man shall see the Lord.

Acts 20:32 - And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (ESV)

Romans 6:5-6 - For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

Philippians 3:10 - that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (ESV)

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:26 - that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

Romans 6:6 - We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (ESV),14

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Galatians 5:24 - And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (ESV)

Ephesians 3:16-19 - that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (ESV)

Colossians 1:11 - May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:14 - Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (ESV)

1.8 1689 Baptist confession of faith

Read <https://www.the1689confession.com/>

1.8.1 1689 Baptist confession of faith: Chapter 1

1 Paragraph 10
2
3 The supreme judge, by which all controversies
4 of religion are to be determined, and all
5 decrees of councils, opinions of ancient
6 writers, doctrines of men, and private
7 spirits, are to be examined, and in whose
8 sentence we are to rest, can be no other but
9 the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit,
10 into which Scripture so delivered, our faith
11 is finally resolved
12
13 21 Matt. 22:29, 31, 32; Eph. 2:20; Acts 28:23

AMEN!!

1.8.2 1689 Baptist confession of faith: Notes for Chapter 2, paragraph 1

Numbers 14:18 - The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will **by no means clear the guilty**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation. (ESV)

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

If you have trusting faith in God then you will walk according to the will of God (walk the way Jesus Christ calls us to walk in obedience to Jesus, as a response of love to God in the knowledge He loved us first). **Led by the Spirit = following Jesus.**

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, **he must follow me**; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

That's not *working* but it is *walking* and it is being obedient to Jesus. It would be silly to say that the Israelites were trusting in their own works as they walked through the Red Sea. The Israelites through the Red Sea were being led by the Spirit - they were not working for God as they walked in obedience:

Galatians 5:16-18 - But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Song youtube.com: Shane & Shane: I Will Wait For You {Psalm 130}

Jesus' disciples here were being led by Jesus. As I understand it, we're only not guilty if we're trusting Jehovah God who justifies the ungodly by trusting Jesus. Serving Jesus = Following Jesus. We've got to follow Jesus:

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, **he must follow me**; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

Matthew 8:22 - And Jesus said to him, **Follow me**, and leave the dead to bury their own dead. (ESV)

Luke 9:60 - And Jesus said to him, Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, **go and proclaim the kingdom of God**. (ESV)

We follow Jesus that we may walk in the light. God delivers us as we follow Jesus so that we can walk in the light:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

Psalms 56:13 - For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, **that I may walk before God in the light of life.** (ESV)

Job 33:27-30 - He sings before men and says: I sinned and perverted what was right, and it was not repaid to me. He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light. Behold, God does all these things, twice, three times, with a man, to bring back his soul from the pit, that he may be lighted with the light of life. (ESV)

Trusting Him who justifies the ungodly has noticeable fruit of following Him because those who trust Him follow Him:

Matthew 12:1-8 - At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath. He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath. (ESV)

youtube.com: Chris Tomlin - I Will Follow {@ChrisTomlinVEVO} Who You love, I'll love; How You serve I'll serve; If this life I lose, I will follow You; I will follow You

As you can see, the disciples still generally followed the commandment to rest on the Sabbath day:

Luke 23:56 - Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. (ESV)

But Jesus is lord of the Sabbath:

Mark 2:27-28 - And he said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath. (ESV)

And we enter into God's rest as we are trusting in Jesus:

Hebrews 4:6-11 - Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, Today, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (ESV)

Jesus will serve His servants who are awake:

Luke 12:37 - Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. (ESV)

Matthew 23:11 - The greatest among you shall be your servant. (ESV)

1.8.3 Notes for Chapter 9, paragraph 3

1 Paragraph 3

2

3 Man, by his fall into a state of sin, has
4 wholly lost all ability of will to any
5 spiritual good accompanying salvation;4 so as
6 a natural man, being altogether averse from
7 that good, and dead in sin,⁵ is not able by
8 his own strength to convert himself, or to
9 prepare himself thereunto.⁶

10

11 4 Rom. 5:6, 8:7

12 5 Eph. 2:1,5

13 6 Titus 3:3-5; John 6:44

I don't entirely agree with this paragraph saying all ability of will is lost (I could be wrong). Rather, I think that without God's help in sending us Jesus to make atonement for sin, even if we willed to do things which are part of God's will for us, such as being freed from our sin, it's not possible. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. I do believe that without God's assistance in drawing us to Jesus, it is impossible for us to be saved. And I believe that without Jesus' help, it's impossible for us to be sanctified and brought to Father God. Willingness is very much linked with obedience of the heart.

Isaiah 1:19 - If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; (ESV)

Man's inability to do any spiritual good accompanying salvation is essentially like a broken-down car's inability to drive and without God's assistance by empowering us with His Holy Spirit (either inside or around us), though a person might seek after God or will to repent, they're not able to save themselves.

Acts 17:26-27 - And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, (ESV)

So the problem in my opinion is not the will to do the will of God but the ability to carry out the will of God:

Romans 7:20-22 - Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

Isaiah 1:19 - If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; (ESV)

Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (ESV)

Matthew 26:40-43 - And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. **The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.** Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. (ESV)

Romans 7:16-18 - Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (ESV)

God gives us His Holy Spirit and we then fight against the sin.
God helps us to conquer sin as we turn from it:

I Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because **the Lord is an avenger in all these things**, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

We obey God and disobey sin and God puts satan under our feet:

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

1.9 Catechism of the Catholic Church

usccb.cld.bz: Catechism of the Catholic Church - Page 415 All the ordained ministers of the Latin Church, with the exception of permanent deacons, are normally chosen from among men of faith who live a celibate life and who intend to remain celibate "for the sake of the kingdom of heaven." Called to consecrate themselves with undivided heart to the Lord and to "the affairs of the Lord", they give themselves entirely to God

and to men. Celibacy is a sign of this new life to the service of which the Church's minister is consecrated; accepted with a joyous heart celibacy radiantly proclaims the Reign of God. In the Eastern Churches a different discipline has been in force for many centuries: while bishops are chosen solely from among celibates, married men can be ordained as deacons and priests. This practice has long been considered legitimate; these priests exercise a fruitful ministry within their communities. Moreover, priestly celibacy is held in great honor in the Eastern Churches and many priests have freely chosen it for the sake of the Kingdom of God. In the East as in the West a man who has already received the sacrament of Holy Orders can no longer marry.

We have the right to take a believing wife, but that doesn't mean whoever we want. It doesn't mean we can't ask someone. I still think we have the right to propose. But we might not be allowed to marry them. That's the right way to understand it, I think.

This verbiage "take along" does sound like "lead about". So what Paul says he might be written more unambiguously as, "Are we not allowed to take around (bring) with us a wife who is a sister in Christ, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?" If that's the way it was meant, then that still implicitly does carry with it the idea that they are allowed to have a wife. But the passage doesn't necessarily speak about merely "becoming married" (i.e. the right to 'become married') but does seem to entail that idea too because if someone has the right to bring along or spend time with their wife then that presupposes that a state of marriage is something someone has the right to be in:

I Corinthians 9:5 - Do we not have the right (G1849 exousian: authority [N-AFS]) to take along (G4013 periagein: to take about [V-PNA], to lead about with oneself) a believing (G79 adelphēn: a sister [N-AFS]. i.e. a sister in Christ) wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? (ESV)

See how it says that a person does not sin by taking a wife, even after they are called. But Paul says for those who marry after they are called there will be worldly troubles. And also, Paul points out that the present form of the world is passing away, so after we are called by God, we should really be anticipating the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:

I Corinthians 7:24-31 - So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

And marriage was instituted by God at the dawn of Creation. And anyone who is not God is not permitted to separate a marriage partner. And anyone who defiles the marriage bed would be judged. I would imagine that includes people who defile other people's marriages:

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor **among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

Galatians 3:15 - To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. (ESV)

Matthew 19:4-9 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold

fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. (ESV)

A wife is a gift from God:

I Corinthians 7:7 - I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. (ESV)

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (ESV)

For the sake of the Kingdom, we may choose to be single:

Matthew 19:12 - For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.

I Corinthians 7:8-9 - To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

Revelation of John 14:4 - It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,

To take a wife is a right that God has given to men but not whoever they want because a wife is a gift from God. For a Christian, the man has a right to take a woman who has faith in Jesus, but not whoever they want because a wife is a gift from God.

Forced marriage denial is I think a cause or a catalyst for sin.

1.10 Heidelberg Catechism

- <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

I affirm almost all of the Heidelberg Catechism. However, I see it as a teaching resource, and not Scripture. Though, after doing the independent Bible study below, I am pleasantly surprised to be in (from what I can currently tell) almost full agreement with it, with some minor differences. For example, when I read its logical statements such as "Q. What is the aim of the tenth commandment? A. That not even the...", I think there's a bit more to it.

Also, I believe that believer's baptism is Scriptural and should result in following Jesus.

I link the Heidelberg Catechism here for others' reference. By all means read the Heidelberg Catechism first.

Also, I think that Q&A 133 could more greatly emphasise that we should covet God alone; that Jesus must be our #1 treasure, our Pearl of Great Price:

Luke 12:15 - And he said to them, Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. (ESV)

Colossians 3:5 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (ESV)

1 Lord's Day 44
2 Q&A 113
3 Q. What is the aim of the tenth commandment?
4 A. That not even the slightest desire or thought
5 contrary to any one of God's commandments
6 should ever arise in our hearts.
7
8 Rather, with all our hearts
9 we should always hate sin
10 and take pleasure in whatever is right.
11
12 1 Ps. 19:7-14; 139:23-24; Rom 7:7-8

I may use the catechism to make adjustments to my theology document if I find errors in my understanding.

2 My thoughts and bible references regarding theology

I've been thinking about belief, faith, works, law and receiving **the Holy Spirit!** Please let me know what you think if you have the time.

I'm trying to get clearer on this. Please feel free to discuss it with me.

2.1 Bible versions used in this document

Almost all of verses are taken from the ESV (English Standard Version) bible with the odd NASB (New American Standard Bible), KJV (King James Version), and BSB (Berean Study Bible) used here and there.

I have also used the original Hebrew and Greek from the Interlinear Bible on Biblehub.com a couple of times.

By default I will use the ESV and where it is not from the ESV, I have almost certainly marked it with the alternative version used.

I'm not KJV-only but I trust in Jesus and I trust that God justifies the one who places their faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus and Jesus' words are the rock, the sure foundation.

Matthew 7:24 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: (KJV)

Without commenting on the Bible translation itself, I'm very concerned about the Recovery version's footnotes and echo this person's sentiment:

bible-researcher.com recovery-version.html: Recovery Version (Reviewed by Murray Grindlay, February

Conclusion: The Recovery Version is a conservative translation, for the most part similar in its style and translation to versions such as the NASB and the ESV. There are a few places in the Old Testament where the desire to be literal and perhaps following an older style of English has produced renderings that are misleading or difficult to understand. Such places are more common in the New Testament. There are also unusual translations in a few places. But on the whole, the Recovery Version is a reliable translation. However, I cannot recommend the edition of the New Testament which has extensive footnotes, because invariably those using it will read the footnotes. This edition has been distributed freely to all who have requested a copy by a body linked to The Local Church, and it appears that many copies have been distributed. While I was working with Bible Society I received several enquiries from people who had obtained one of these New Testaments – usually wanting to know what some of the footnotes meant! In view of what is in some of the footnotes, anyone using this edition should be cautious and test them against what the Bible actually says (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Murray Grindlay - February 2009

As I've been listening to <https://hymnsradio.com/ways-to-listen/> today (and hearing excerpts from the Recovery version footnotes/commentary), I think it they try to over-explain Scripture to the point of neutralising or opposing what the Scriptures actually teach. I like the hymns a lot. But I'm really concerned about the use of

the Recovery version footnotes! And I think this becomes particularly dangerous with the footnotes for the Book of Revelation (Revelation of John 22:18-19).

Speaking of Christian radio stations, I have since been listening to FBC Radio and really like it for its high quality Christian and sermons. It's an Outreach Ministry of Foundations Bible College.

3 Being born-again

Billy Graham really explains this quite well Born Again | Billy Graham Classic - YouTube @time: 10 min 50 sec

I believe we are set free from sin and from being condemned by / under the Mosaic Law to become a slave to Christ Jesus under grace - a slave to righteousness.

Romans 6:20 - When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (ESV)

Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now having been freed from sin and **enslaved to God**, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

Galatians 4:8 - Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. (ESV)

Romans 6:18-20 - and, having been set free from sin, have become **slaves of righteousness**. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (ESV)

We are saved while believing in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of God:

John 3:18 - **Whoever believes in him is not condemned**, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

And brought into doing the will of God:

Romans 15:17-18 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to **obedience—by word and deed**,

Job 22:24-26 - **if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God.** (ESV)

God wants us to love Him, treasure Him (25. agapaó), value Him with all our heart, and love and value youtube.com: What Is It Like to Enjoy God? @time: 35 min 16 sec

Yeah, I agree with John Piper, for the most part. Loving God is not actually **first** working for God. But it is to truly desire God, and treasure Him (25. agapaó), and treasure His word, and treasure His commandments, to give Him due praise, and to honour God, and give Him the glory, to love Him in the affectionate and treasuring sense is what God wants of us, and Jesus says that if we love Him then we will keep His commandments. Where John Piper says 'affectionate love comes before obedience', I prefer to say that 'treasuring God includes a heart of obedience, trust, belief, desiring God, and affectionate love' and I also think that obedience (being in the will

of God) may produce work for God but doesn't strictly mean work. We want to keep His commandments so I believe we should treasure God with all our heart. God also commands us to love one another as ourselves, so we should also love and value other people with that same treasuring love, but God wants Him to be our number one treasure, and I think we have to make God our number one love.

I affirm John MacArthur's message here. If we love the Lord our God with **all** our heart, soul mind and strength, it will be much easier to kill sin:

youtube.com: Killing the Sin in Your Life {@gracetoyou} Help us to live so conscious of Your glory in Your majesty that we love You supremely that we love You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and if we love You like that there never will be a replacement for you, certainly not us, and Lord remind us that sin is always the result of dethroning you and usurping your sovereignty for ourselves.

God wants Him to be our treasure. We must obey Jesus and Jehovah Jireh will provide:

I have also had a lot of suffering as I keep a good conscience with God, having been obedient to Him.

I Timothy 1:3-5 - As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience.** By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (ESV)

But a good conscience with God remaining obedient to Him, enduring suffering and continuing to be faithful to God, and keeping the commandments of Jesus Christ while feeling like a zombie having what you love stolen from you by the enemy - this is still love for God to continue keeping the commandments of Jesus Christ.

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

youtube.com: Especially for someone who is feeling downcast - Lamentations 3: 22-23 | 29th September

The book of Lamentations is unlikely to be the most popular book in the Bible, and the reason for this is it's a book of laments. It's written round about the time of the Babylonian exile and it's written from the point of view of someone who has lost everything and doesn't hold back in how he feels about this. But nevertheless, if you look hard enough, you'll find that the book of Lamentations does contain some nuggets of pure, pure gold, and this week's verses are a case in point.

They help us show the difference it can make if we focus our eyes not so much on what we have *lost* but on what we still have. If all we do is focus on our eyes on all that we have lost, the result will be a soul that is downcast. Whereas, if we remember to focus on what we still have, the result is a soul that still has hope for better times to come.

Lamentations 3:19-23 - Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (ESV)

Consider Job. Obedience is in the heart, along with belief in the Truth and understanding of the gospel. Obedience can exist without work. Jesus said, "The spirit is indeed willing but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (ESV)

Some people endure great suffering for serving God. Our obedience to God, having accepted Jesus, and passing forward love and forgiveness, is having a heart close to Jesus through keeping Jesus' commandments - see I John 4, John 14,15,16 and 17. Now having affections for God is great, but joy can exist alongside . Having a good conscience with God is great. John Piper I think incorrectly says just after 9:39 here that loving Jesus cannot mean obedience to Jesus' commands in this verse. We have to remain faithful to Jesus above all, I think. For the sake of making testimony of Jesus to those who are in darkness, for example. To bear the reproach that Jesus did for the sake of Jesus and His gospel. To remain obedient to the Truth as things are taken away from you, like what happened to Job - this is still love for God, but God wants us to treasure Him more than anything.

As I understand it, **I John 5:2-3** isn't saying that God's commandments are universally unburdensome to all people. It's saying that when we love God then keeping His commandments is unburdensome. If we're struggling with keeping the commandments of God and struggling with sin then we should make Him our number one love heart's desire and treasure and seek Him first with all our heart and we will be able to find His commandments unburdensome! It's true.

I feel like I could still say, "**Loving God is obedience to God,**" but I would rather rephrase it as, "God in His love gifted me to be able to love Him back and live. I can see in retrospect He had been working in my life and it's awesome and magnificent and I just want to cherish and obey God now, and God made the way for me to do that!"

John 16:27-28 - for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father. (ESV)

We have confidence when we keep His commandments, believing in the name of God's Son Jesus Christ and loving one another and our heart doesn't condemn us:

I John 3:21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another**, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

When the apostles said that Jesus rose again, they meant that his physical body came back to life. The risen Jesus wasn't a phantom or ghost, but a breakfast-eating, flesh-and-bone, human being. This is gospel Truth:

Luke 24:36-43 - As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, Peace to you! But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, Have you anything here to eat? They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. (ESV)

John 21:10-14 - Jesus said to them, Bring some of the fish that you have just caught. So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, Come and have breakfast. Now none of the disciples dared ask him, Who are you? They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. (ESV)

Holding the mystery of the faith (believing the Truth, believing Jesus, holding faith in Jesus, believing the gospel Truth and the facts about Jesus) with a clear conscience, we serve Christ:

I Timothy 3:9-13 - They must **hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience**. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, **faithful in all things**. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For **those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.** (ESV)

God desires all people to be saved, **coming to a knowledge of the Truth (not without coming to a knowledge of the Truth), ceasing to do the will of the devil (not without ceasing to do the will of the devil):**

I Timothy 2:3-6 - This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (ESV)

We agape love even the people who are lost in the hope that God will grant them repentance to life, leading to a knowledge of the Truth, that they might cease to do the devil's will. Make no mistake, spreading dangerous heresy about Jesus Christ is the devil's will. So we hope that God grants the heretics repentance to come to a knowledge of the Truth, to be sanctified in the Truth. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is the Word of God and is God's revelation of Himself to us and is the Bread of Life. Amen:

II Timothy 2:24-26 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (ESV)

God's mercy is ultimately not dependent on human will, but on God who has mercy to grant us repentance to Life:

Romans 9:15-16 - For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith. God grants us repentance:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Delirious? - Touch

We end up thinking in a similar fashion to Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to **do** the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! **Let your good Spirit lead me** on level ground! (ESV)

Philippians 2:5-7 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (ESV)

Jesus was self-humbling and obedient to God, and we end up thinking this way:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

We become enslaved to righteousness in Christ, not enslaved to corruption, but through persevering obedience to Jesus, we consolidate walking in the light, in obedience and faith to Jesus and we are conformed to practicing righteousness, walking as He walked:

II Peter 2:19 - They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. (ESV)

I John 2:6 - whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

We become conformed to Christ's image practicing righteousness - doing works of righteousness which are done in faith in Him:

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (ESV)

I John 3:7-8 - Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (ESV)

In Christ Jesus there is freedom from things which were bad for us, including selfishness, condemnation, slavery to sin and death, and feeling like we're not good enough for God. There is freedom from anything that tries to hinder us from obeying God in truth:

I Peter 2:16 - Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. (ESV)

Galatians 5:1-6 - **For freedom Christ has set us free**; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. **For through the Spirit, by faith**, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. **For in Christ Jesus** neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but **only faith working through love**. (ESV)

Abraham Lincoln Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.

Freedom isn't "license to sin without consequences" but it's license to choose who you will obey, but to choose sin would be defiling and enslaving, but to choose to obey Jesus is purifying and liberating.

youtube.com: Donald Trump: "Two Corinthians..." {C-SPAN} {@CSPAN} @time: 26 sec 2 Corinthians 3:17. That's the whole ball game. Where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

Joshua 24:15 - And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (ESV)

The freedom in Jesus is to be able to obey Righteousness and the freedom to be able to choose to deny sin, it's the freedom to present ourselves as slaves of Righteousness to God, and God supporting us to do His commandments, setting up the opportunities for us. When temptation comes along, we have the freedom to choose to say no to it and keep accountability with God, seeking to please God.

Matthew 6:30-34 - But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

Yes, Jesus has set us free, but it's to serve God by serving Christ. We are freed in order to love and serve God:

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. (ESV)

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

Daniel 7:27 - Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.' (NASB)

We are also freed from, for example, making the worries of the world our first thought in the day such as thinking always in terms of "will I have enough money, for example", to instead, with the Holy Spirit in us, thinking correctly, having joy in being able to live out the great commandments in actuality, to be able to trust God and love God, I believe with our **whole** heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbour as ourselves, and as we abide in Jesus Christ, focused on Jesus as our Pearl of Great Price, obeying God in word and deed, passing-forward Christ's love to others, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin:

II Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (ESV)

youtube.com: Toward Need, Not Comfort: The Blood-Bought Path of the Good Samaritan Father, I ask now that [in this room] you would put all of us onto the blood-bought path that leads to eternal life, the path of love, the path where we move toward need, not comfort.

[youtube.com: God Is Our Savior from What? 1 Timothy 1:1-2, Part 2 @time: 2 min 33 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=123456789) Salvation?

Savior? From what? There's a whole world view implied in that word 'Savior' that many people do not grasp at all. Unbelievers don't know what they need to be saved from.

...

One of the things we're saved from is this awful bent towards sinning.

Without blood atonement, corruption gets progressively worse and we perish:

Hebrews 9:22 - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

Our salvation looks like being cleaned up by His spirit, behaving in a way now reflecting that we have knowledge of God (i.e. godliness), and not worldliness, treasuring God and one another, and letting go of treasuring/valuing worldly things, with hope for eternal life:

Titus 2:11-13 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (ESV)

God's grace trains/has taught us to **renounce ungodliness**, and renounce worldly passions and then live discreetly and righteously and piously in this present age - to repent from sin and practice godly behaviour in the present world, which is full of wickedness as we are in the end times.

Titus 2:11 Has appeared for the grace - of God bringing salvation to all men

Titus 2:12 instructing us that having denied - ungodliness and - worldly passions discreetly and righteously and piously we should live in the present age

1	2014	1063	3588	5485	3588	2316	
2	Epephanē	gar	hē	charis	tou	Theou	
3				Θ	,		
4	Has	appeared	for	the	grace	-	of God
5	V-AIP-3S	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	
6							
7	4992		3956	444			
8	sōtērios		pasin	anthrōpois			
9				,			
10	bringing	salvation	to	all	men		
11	Adj-NFS		Adj-DMP	N-DMP			
1	3811	1473	2443	720	3588	763	2532 3588
2	paideuousa	hēmas	hina	arnēsamenoi	tēn	asebeian	kai tas
3				,			
4	instructing	us	that	having	denied	-	ungodliness and -
5	V-PPA-NFS	PPro-A1P	Conj	V-APM-NMP	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Conj Art-AFP
6							
7	2886	1939	4996	2532	1346	2532	2153
8	kosmikas	epithymias	sōphronōs	kai	dikaiōs	kai	eusebōs
9				,			
10	worldly	passions		discreetly	and	righteously	and piously
11	Adj-AFP	N-AFP	Adv	Conj	Adv	Conj	Adv
12							
13	2198	1722	3588	3568	165		

14	zēsōmen	en	tō	nyn	aiōni	
15				,		
16	we should live in	the		present age		
17	V-ASA-1P	Prep	Art-DMS	Adv	N-DMS	

Is repentance from sin necessary for salvation? Yes. We renounce the sinful habits and God cleans us up as we obey Him by faith. The liberty that God provides is not being a slave/servant of sin/corruption. God's grace trains us / has taught us to renounce sin, and to live holy lives with holy behaviour in this present age:

II Peter 2:14-20 - Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour (KJV)

If a person is unrepentant from sin then it is better that their body is destroyed so their spirit may be saved. In the case of the thief on the cross, his body **was** destroyed. If he stayed around, he probably would have renounced ungodliness and pursued holiness:

I Corinthians 5:1-5 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

Romans 13:10-11 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. (ESV)

We are justified in order that we may receive eternal life. We then purify ourselves. Eternal life is at the end of sanctification:

Titus 3:3-7 - For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

I John 3:2-7 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:34 - Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (ESV)

We're supposed to arrive at doing the will of God from the heart, loving one another in peace:

I Timothy 2:1-4 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of **God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** (ESV)

We must embrace sanctification:

Romans 6:20-23 - When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But **now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

At the end of sanctification, the age to come and eternal life:

Luke 18:29-30 - And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Jesus All for Jesus {Lyrics}

Lyrics Jesus, all for Jesus; All I am and have and ever hope to be; All of my ambitions, hopes and plans; I surrender these into your hands; **For it's only in your will that I am free;**

I believe this. If anyone is trusting that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, then they have life in His name. That doesn't mean they have come to know Him yet. But if they have just begun to trust that Jesus is the Christ, they have started on their journey to get to know Him. They are an infant in Christ:

John 20:31 - but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

We must get on the path of having faith in Jesus, believe in the name of Jesus, God's Son, and obey God to have confidence:

Proverbs 10:17 - Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray. (ESV)

I John 3:21-22 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because **we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.** (ESV)

Quote by John Piper Christ by his death and resurrection dealt a decisive defeating blow against Satan, he cannot destroy you except by tempting you to distrust Jesus and walk in sin. Believe in the triumph that you already have - down payment by the spirit in your life and walk in this victory.

As we hold our faith in God, we understand that He loved us first. As we hold our faith in God, we draw closer to God as we practice Christ's love towards others:

I John 4:8-11 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might **live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

While obedience exists in the heart, as belief does, as **faith is** believing and obedient **trust**, works are the actions we do out of that obedience, that love for Jesus, and out of ongoing believing, obedient faith, out of obedience to the Holy Spirit. Doing the will of God isn't "work", but is a just mode of walking. It's a mode of walking that is different from doing the will of satan. Satan is not God's equal and opposite.

John 3:36 - The [one] believing (**G4100 pisteuōn**) in the Son has life eternal; the [one] however not obeying (**apeithōn**) the Son not will see life but the wrath - of God abides on him (Interlinear)

We need a trusting, obedient heart. It's not just about obeying one point of belief in Jesus, but about having a heart which believes Jesus, trusts Jesus, obeys Jesus, and accepting Him and His words.

1	3588	4100	1519	3588	5207	2192	2222	166
2	ho	pisteuōn	eis	ton	Huiōn	echei	zōēn	aiōnion
3				T			;	
4	The [one]	believing	in	the	Son	has	life	eternal
5	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	V-PIA-3S	N-AFS	Adj-AFS
6								
7	3588	1161	544	3588	5207	3756	3708	
8	ho	de	apeithōn	tō	Huiō	ouk	opsetai	
9				T	,			
10	the [one]	however	not	obeying	the	Son	not	will see
11	Art-NMS	Conj	V-PPA-NMS	Art-DMS	N-DMS	Adv	V-FIM-3S	
12								
13	2222	235	3588	3709	3588	2316	3306	1909 846
14	zōēn	all'	hē	orgē	tou	Theou	menei	ep'
15	,	,			θ	,		.
16	life	but	the	wrath	-	of God	abides	on him
17	N-AFS	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-3S	Prep PPro-AM3S

The reason Abraham's faith was counted as righteousness is because no **distrust** made him waver (Abraham faithfully trusted God regarding the promise). Abraham believed God was able to do what He had promised. So a good **indicator** that Abraham was totally trusting of God is that Abraham walked in the promise of God. I think the most important takeaway from this is that **faith is trusting**, even if our trusting faith may waver, our faith intrinsically is trusting of God, and trust naturally elicits both belief and obedience:

Romans 4:20-22 - No distrust (**apistia**) made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **That is why** his faith was counted to him as righteousness. (ESV)

And the obedience doesn't end. We continue to be sanctified through faith. We are saved from darkness, believing the word of God, and in obedience we are saved from sinning and try to fulfill the Royal Law, and even using our freedom in Christ to do good works that are pleasing to God:

Titus 3:8 - The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that **those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works**. These things are excellent and profitable for people. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:14-18 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and **deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery**. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but **he helps the offspring of Abraham**. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted**. (ESV)

youtube.com: John Lennox: How do I choose which religion to follow? @time: 8 min 12 sec You've heard about my wife. Well, over fifty years ago, I saw this vision in Cambridge, so I decided I'd like to marry her. So I came to her one day and I had a little present wrapped up for her. It was a cookbook. So I said, "I'd like to marry you, Sally. Now the condition would be this: Let's look at page 147 - it's apple cake, and here are the laws for making apple cake. Thou shalt take some what's flour, thou shall take some what sugar, and there you are. Now, here's the way it's gonna be: If you keep these laws for the next forty years, I think about accepting you. If you don't, you can go back to your mother."

But, look why are you laughing? That is what many of you sitting here think about God. And you would never insult a fellow human being by basing a relationship on merit. You wouldn't. And so my marriage, it's been good, why? Because my wife is not cooking in order to gain my acceptance. She likes cooking because she's got it. And the wonderful thing about Christianity is precisely that. It's not religion in that sense, it's a relationship.

Amen to that.

Christianity is a relationship, like a marriage:

- Acceptance comes at the beginning; Jesus gives us the benefit of the doubt. Just start serving Jesus
 - We must still forgive and love our family in Christ. This isn't 'work', but it is obedience, and it is a required heart attitude
 - **Romans 14:18** - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)
 - As an analogy, you could imagine a hypothetical Hebrew slave living in ancient Egypt who had faithful, agape-loving faith in God (the faith that God required from them given the revelation of Him they had been given) and was believing that God would save them and they treasured God more than anything, worshiped God, but still in physical slavery in Egypt. If they were to have died there in the mud pits, would God let them into heaven? If their heart was good already then does the physical journey matter or even lead them to a better place? Or is what is really important what is going on in a person's heart? I believe it's what's going on in the heart that matters. A person might be considered "saved" at any point if they have the righteousness of faith in God that God requires of them, but we are expected to continue holding our faith in God for a future salvation. We must have the faith in God that God requires, faithfully receiving Jesus and hold onto that faith, and if you've got the right faith and you died with the right faith then you'd go to heaven with the right faith. That is because of Heb 11:39-40.
 - **Hebrews 11:39-40** - And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. (ESV)
- Salvation is based on Jesus' merit but also on our working-out of that free salvation gift with hope, faith, repentance and obedience
 - **Philippians 1:6** - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)
 - **Philippians 2:12-16** - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

- We **must** have a response of love for Jesus
 - **John 14:21** - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)
 - **John 16:27** - for the Father himself loves you, **because** you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (ESV)
- In whatever we do, we should be serving the Lord Jesus Christ
 - **I Corinthians 10:31** - So, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.** (ESV)
 - **Colossians 3:17** - And **whatever you do**, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.** (ESV)
 - **I Corinthians 16:14** - Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)
 - **Romans 12:9** - Let love be genuine. *Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* (ESV)
- **Philippians 1:6** - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)
- **Philippians 2:12-16** - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

Belief in Jesus Christ continues in obedience, and imitating Christ as we continue trusting Him and in Him:

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

It's imperative that we continue in obedience to abide by the Lord Jesus' teachings, and that includes repentance from sin because He taught us to turn from our sin:

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For **the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.**

Psalms 119:11 - I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (ESV)

We **must** forgive each other:

Colossians 3:13 - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** (ESV)

We **must** love our brother and our sister in Christ. It's imperative that we follow Jesus Christ's teachings and commandments:

I John 4:20-21 - If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

Jesus is our brother - He is not ashamed to call those brothers who He sanctifies:
gotquestions.org Jesus-our-brother.html: Is Jesus our brother? | GotQuestions.org

Hebrews 2:11 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (ESV)

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (ESV)

Mark 3:34-35 - And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother. (ESV)

Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:20-23 - But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (ESV)

The will of Father God is for us to love, trust and obey His Son Jesus Christ:

II Thessalonians 1:8 - in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 2:7-8 - to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

I confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus is the Son of God, and I believe that God loved us first and that we must love God and love one another:

I John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (ESV)

I've met someone who confessed to me that Jesus is the Son of God. However, last I saw them they continued on in a Hindu religion, serving a false god who is not Jesus. Due to all the warnings against idolatry, etc. I'd say that one person's confession at one point doesn't guarantee that they are still in the faith the next moment. So I think that either God will discipline such disobedience that they will be saved from the wrath of God, or they will be unrepentant and condemned along with the world.

Isaiah 42:8 - I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. (ESV)

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

Jeremiah 7:3-11 - Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD. For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever. **Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered! — only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?** Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD. (ESV)

Servants of Jesus must follow Jesus, not someone or something else:

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow **me**; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:7-14 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways. As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:5-14 - Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. **Do not be idolaters** as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore **let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall**. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry**. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:28-32 - Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning (G1252 diakrinōn: discerning) the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

When taking communion / eucharist, we should have Jesus as our #1 agape love and be taking our cross and following Him:

Matthew 10:37-38 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

When we drink the cup of the Lord, we must drink it in a worthy manner (**I Corinthians 11:24-29**)

- Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God
 - We must not be idolators
 - * **Matthew 10:37-38**
 - * **I Corinthians 10:14-31**
- We must be taking up our cross and following of Jesus
 - **Matthew 10:37-38**
 - **John 15:13** - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)
- In other words, we should have a law-abiding faith in Jesus Christ
 - **Matthew 22:36-40** - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:20-22 - No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (ESV)

G1252 **diakrinó** Discernment That Strengthens Faith

The faithful use of _____ appears in passages that call believers to sift evidence, reach sound conclusions, and thus fortify trust in the Lord. In Matthew 16:3 Jesus rebukes His hearers for failing to “discern the signs of the times,” implying that right discernment would have led them to confess Him as Messiah. Likewise, Acts 15:9 celebrates that God “made no distinction between us and them, and purified their hearts by faith,” a divine act of discernment that opened the church to Gentiles. Such texts show that careful distinguishing can serve redemptive purposes.

John 5:42-47 - But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

Someone who has just put their faith in Jesus for the first time and is believing that Jesus is the Christ is a newborn Christian:

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

The Jesus which the Apostles proclaimed is the same Jesus we need to proclaim in Church - so Jesus’ teachings should be taught right along with the gospel and along with all that the prophets have spoken which relate to Jesus:

II Corinthians 11:4 - For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel (G3844 par’, contrary to) from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. (ESV)

Notice how II Cor 11:4 uses the greek word **par** which seems to translate to "contrary". OK, so if someone is speaking the same thing as Jesus and the Apostles, then great. But if they are preaching, say, against "repentance from sin" then they are not speaking the same gospel, they're not speaking the same thing as Jesus and the Apostles.

Talk by John Piper youtube.com: You Cannot Obey God Without God

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Jesus said to these believers that if they abide in His word (and I believe that means keep His word, even in obedience), they are His disciples - so a person can be a believer before they are a disciple. But we're supposed to make this transition:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

I believe that Simon the magician after initially believing the gospel and being baptised needed to continue in obedience to God, continue trusting in Jesus, turn away from wickedness, purify his heart, draw near to God and receive Holy Spirit and be sanctified. We're instructed to "draw near to God through Jesus Christ" to be saved:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:23-28 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

Don't stop believing. We must continue trusting and believing the Truth to be saved:

Luke 8:12 - The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (ESV)

Be grounded in the Truth and able to overcome testing / trial / tribulation:

Luke 8:13 - And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. (ESV)

Continue walking in the light, and does not go back to falling in love with the world. (i.e. they gave up earthly treasure, and in doing so stored up heavenly treasure, and go after Jesus, their Pearl of Great Price), trusting, believing and obeying Jesus:

Luke 8:14 - And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. (ESV)

Holding fast in faith, out of an honest and good heart, bear good fruit including works of righteousness, even remaining steadfast through trial and tribulation:

Luke 8:15 - As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (ESV)

Quote from John Piper If God in fact in his grace and power enables us to do things that are good, He is going to reward them, not ignore them. He's going to say, "Well done good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:21). Works of Faith are going to be rewarded, not thrown away as filthy rags.

II Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (ESV)

God considers being obedient from a forgiven heart, trusting in Jesus, to faithful service:

Matthew 25:23 - His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. (ESV)

Quote from John Piper He bought us by grace, he sustains us by grace, he enables us to do good works by grace and we do the works trusting that grace.

Ephesians 6:8 - knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:36 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. (ESV)

Luke 6:45 - The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (ESV)

Bearing fruit looks like "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God".

Colossians 1:3-12 - We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God**. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (ESV)

Right after the parable of the soil, Jesus says this:

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

Bear good fruit to prove to be a disciple of Jesus:

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

People will recognise we are Jesus' disciples by the love we have for one another:

John 13:35 - By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

Jesus is the Rock:

I Corinthians 10:4 - and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ.** (ESV)

Belief is important (and is an initial act of obedience):

Matthew 16:15-18 - He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

Obedience is important:

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

Our obedience is not without trust. We obey because we trust God - we obey out of faith in God:

Jeremiah 17:5-8 - Thus says the LORD: Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit. (ESV)

Our obedience is in the heart. We want to obey because we love Jesus (we will to):

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, You go, and do likewise. (ESV)

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youtube.com: The Joy of the Puritans Love for God is from the heart. Now, Luke's version of the great commandment gives a clue that that's the case. Luke's version: Just to read it now in the ESV, the lawyer expresses this and Jesus approves it, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind" *but that translation isn't exactly right*. Because those four prepositional phrases in the English are all the same, and in Greek they're **not**. The first one **heart has a different preposition than the other three**. It has the preposition EX "from or out-of" and the others are all EN "in or with/by".

So literally I would say it goes like this, "You shall love the Lord your God **from (or out of) your heart**, with your soul, and with your strength and with your mind." Now, why does that matter?

That's a clue, that's a hint that the human heart is unique in its role that it plays in loving God.

Quote by John Piper The essence of love is heart work, not mind work.

AMEN.

We learn Christ, and are taught by Christ (becoming obedient to His teachings and commandments) while we are **in** Him:

Ephesians 4:20-21 - But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as **the truth is in Jesus**, (ESV)

Therefore, even before I was noticeably "born-again of the water and the Spirit" in 2022, I had begun to try to practice Jesus' commandments in 2020/2021 in an effort to seek God, Jesus must have been already working in me, but I say this to explain how I believe that it might be quite hard to pinpoint the starting point, but we know that it's God's grace through faith (believing, obedient, trusting faith) that it happens, but that doesn't mean believing and obeying Jesus are not important to receive the Holy Spirit, because they are.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

By His grace we have to actually come into obeying Jesus to find life. Think about what it means to obey Jesus: It's to walk in the Spirit, to abide in Jesus' Spirit, to be obeying Jesus' commandments, to seek to follow the pattern of life that He lived to be found in Him. You can abide in Jesus' Spirit if you have faith in Him, believing in Him, believing, trusting and obeying Him, knowing Him, and being found in Him!

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

Faith in Christ I believe means believing in Him and being obedient to Him, having communion with Him, etc. becoming intimate with Him, following Him. This isn't our own merit, but we still obey Jesus to be found in Him. In Him we have Jesus' righteousness:

Matthew 16:25 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

And we should be building each other up, helping each other attain unity of faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God:

Ephesians 4:12-13 - to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the **unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (ESV)

It's unity in faith and truth and love:

Colossians 3:14 - Beyond all (G3956 pas) these things put on love (G26 agape), which (G3739 hos) is the perfect bond of unity.

John 17:23 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:13 - Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

John 17 shows that the unity is not at all unity with the world:

John 17:8-17 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I* am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.* All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.** (ESV)

Philippians 3:18-21 - For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

Being prone to stir up division, particularly over foolish controversies, is bad. Rather, we want unity in faith, love and **Truth**. The Truth does matter:

Titus 3:10-11 - The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division (141. *hairesis*), after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. (ESV)

No-one comes to Father God except through Jesus Christ:

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

There is salvation in no one else other than Jesus Christ of Nazareth:

Acts 4:8-12 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (ESV)

- 141. *hairetikos*:: Definition: causing division. Usage: disposed to form sects, sectarian, heretical, factious.

We must agape love God, and our family in Christ and called to agape love even our enemies - How Christians agape love:

Agape is definitely a treasuring love. God is worth infinitely more than anything. God must be our first agape. People are worth infinitely more than chatbots or anything worldly, for example.

26 (*agapē*) typically refers to divine love (= what God prefers).

See where else this word used to describe agape love is used:

- https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm
- https://biblehub.com/greek/agapa_25.htm
- https://biblehub.com/greek/agapate_25.htm
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/26.htm>

Agape-love can be misplaced. We go from agape-loving (treasuring, valuing) darkness to agape-loving (treasuring, valuing) light:

John 3:16-20 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved (25. *agapaó*) the darkness rather than the light (5457. *phós*) because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. (ESV)

Genuine agape loves the light. The Truth of God is light and is good and is not wicked:

Romans 12:9 - Let love (G26 *agapé*) be genuine (G505 *anupokritos*). Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (ESV)

I think it's fine to say, "I love Jesus and Jesus loves you" to people, if indeed you do love Jesus and if Jesus lives in you and you love that person with agape love. And it's also, in that way, OK to say, "God loves you" because Jesus is the Son of God.

But for anyone to remain in God's love, even through Jesus Christ, we must remain in Jesus' love, and to remain in Jesus' love we must keep His commandments. So believers **must** go on in Jesus' love for one another as one of Jesus' commandments.

Keep Jesus' commandments. Remain in His love:

John 15:10 - If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. (engbsb2020eb)

Maintain faith in Jesus. Remain in Him:

John 15:4-7 - Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers. Such branches are gathered up, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (engbsb2020eb)

But when talking about Father God, it's correct to say that God loved you, sending Jesus, and Father God will love you if you love Jesus and believe He was sent from God.

If anyone loves Jesus, they will keep His word, and Father God will love them, and Father God and Jesus Christ, Son of God will come to them and make our home with them:

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

I think it's more edifying when sharing Jesus to people to say that "God **loved us** and sent Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins and wants us to repent and believe the gospel and obey His commandments", and to say "God **loved you**", rather than "God 'loves' you". Because God loved us and expects us to continue to abide in His love. If we put our faith in Jesus, if we believe He is the Son of God, and the Christ and if we believe God sent Him to be propitiation for our sin, and if we agape-love, treasure Jesus, abiding in Jesus' commandments, then Father God will continue to love us.

John 16:25-27- I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

God expects us to receive and to not reject His Son Jesus, and Jesus expects us who receive Him, to trust and obey Him and abide in His commandments. Jesus said, "If you love me you will keep my commandments." And He said, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." He expects us to keep His commandments. We want to remain in God's love:

Jude 1:20-21 - But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

II Corinthians 9:7 - Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (ESV)

John 16:26-27 - In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (ESV)

If we agape love, treasure, value God, agape-loving, treasuring, valuing Jesus Christ, and we obey God's commandments for us, obey Christ's commandments, then we may know that we are loving our family in Christ:

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we **love God and obey his commandments.** (ESV)

God loved us before we love Him back. That's the same way we must love others. We are called to love those who hate us:

I John 4:6-19 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that **he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because **he first loved us.** (ESV)

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, **who loved me** and gave himself for me. (ESV)

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 agapaó - *value, treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. monogenēs - *unique, only begotten*) Son that (G2443 hina - *in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 pisteuo) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

biblehub.com 3-16.htm: John 3:16 Interlinear: for God did so love the world, that His Son – the only begotten – He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during.

Who Christians **must** agape love:

- God (Father God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit)
 - https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/matthew/22-37.htm>
 - **Matthew 22:37** - And He said to him You shall love (**25 Agapēseis**) [the] Lord the God of you with all the heart of you and with all the soul of you and with all the mind of you (Interlinear)
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/john/14-23.htm>
- Your spouse
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/ephesians/5-28.htm>
- Others in Christ
 - **Colossians 3:13-14** - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)
 - **I John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

Who Christians are called to agape love:

- All people, even enemies (those who hate you)
 - https://biblehub.com/greek/agapa_25.htm
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/matthew/5-44.htm>
 - **Matthew 5:43-48** - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

We should honor and be respectful to everyone. But when we talk about the brotherhood, it means our family in Christ. We **must** love our family in Christ:

- **I Peter 2:17** - Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (ESV)

- **I John 4:19-21** - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

We should do good to all and try to love whoever is our neighbour. We must love our neighbour as ourself. That person could be family in Christ, and if they are then we **must** love them. So we have to endeavour to be blameless/innocent as the good Samaritan was. I am a firm believer that if someone is a confirmed family in Christ who loves Jesus, with the fear of God, someone who is being taught by Jesus, someone who is following Jesus, then we must certainly be prepared to share their burdens and share the world's goods with them, we must not neglect them, but support them. It would be sin to neglect family in Christ knowingly when they needed support. We should be supporting each-other to abide in Christ's teachings. As Jesus Christ said, "Let the children be fed first." What about loving those outside the church? We give grace to others, but not at the expense of our own children/family in Christ's basic needs. We must let our family in Christ "be fed first". OK, so an example: If family in Christ needs employment (they are willing to work, they're trying to do what God wants them to do, but being prevented by their fellow man from living as God would have them), and you as family in Christ have work that they can do, and they have asked you for it, then you must prioritise giving them the work above giving it to someone who is not confirmed family in Christ, otherwise it's sin:

- **Leviticus 19:18** - **You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD. (ESV)
- **Galatians 6:2-6** - **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)
- **I John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)
- Philip, an Evangelist in Brazil - We have to treat every single person that we encounter with the love of God as much as possible. We fall short, we make mistakes, we're not always at our best, but as much as possible. We provide a testimony.
- **Mark 7:27-29** - And he said to her, Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs. But she answered him, Yes, Lord; **yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.** And he said to her, For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.

We should not fear those who kill the body (mankind or Satan):

- **Matthew 10:28** - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (ESV)
- **Revelation of John 2:10** - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)
- **I Corinthians 5:5** - you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)
- **John 12:42** - Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; (ESV)

We should fear God, and hate evil. Even as concerns the gospel, we should be repentant, seeking God's mercy:

- **Luke 23:40** - But the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (ESV)

- **Proverbs 23:17** - Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 14:27** - The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 16:6** - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)
- **Job 1:1** - There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 8:13** - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (ESV)
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13** - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)
- **I Peter 2:17** - Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (ESV)

What Christians **must not** agape love:

- https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm

The ruler of this world has been judged:

John 16:11 - concerning judgment, because the ruler (G758 archōn: ruler) of this (G3778 toutou: this) world (G2889 kosmou: world) is judged (G2919 kekritai: has been judged). (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned (G2919 krinetai: is judged V-PIM/P-3S), but whoever does not believe is condemned already (G2919 kekrītai: has been judged V-RIM/P-3S), because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

People who love God would receive Jesus and they wouldn't be idolators and they wouldn't have no agape love for their neighbour and they wouldn't have no love for Jesus Christ:

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

John 16:27 - for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved (**5368. phileó**) me and have believed (**4100. pisteuó**) that I came from God. (ESV)

I "think" what is essentially being said is that what is condemned we are not to agape love, since the world's ruler is judged/condemned and anyone who is against Jesus is of the "world" and is presently judged/condemned and presently devoted to destruction (they are basically on their way to hell). How to put this.. I think we must separate from God-haters. So if, for example, someone gave an ultimatum that unless you renounce Jesus, unless you stop telling people about Jesus, unless you have all your memories of Jesus erased, unless you burn all those Bibles, unless you steal from someone, or unless you choose to not help that homeless believer in Jesus, then you can't be friends, what are you to do? We of course because we love and treasure Jesus, we must choose Jesus, choose to obey Him and choose to be faithful to Jesus instead of being friends with the who person gave the ultimatum. We treasure Jesus, want to be around Him and there are times when we must choose to separate from people who reject Jesus. That's what I think it means to not agape love the world. We must not agape love the world. We must instead agape love Father God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit and those who belong to Jesus Christ.

Basically, an extreme version of II Cor 6:14-18. There is a "letting go" of the "world" (G2889 kosmō). Not a letting go of believers, but the world. Perhaps like "wheat letting go of tares":

II Corinthians 6:14-18 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

A different word is used for land/ground/soil here:

John 17:4 - I glorified you on earth (G3588 *tēs*: the) (G1093 *gēs*: earth. land, ground, soil), having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. (ESV)

Agape love must not be for anything of the world:

Personally, when I am reading these passages, I am thinking of "world" as an evil generation but I don't necessarily think of it as distinct from literally the cosmos. So Jesus' disciples are in the world but "not of the world", not of the evil generation, at least no longer.

John 17:6 - I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. (ESV)

John 17:16 - They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (ESV)

The same word for world is used when talking about the Earth. But I don't think it's merely talking about the physical Earth. And to be honest, Romans 1:20 is talking about God's divine nature being perceived in the things that have been made. So when thinking of the word world as it's used, there's definitely a spiritual aspect to think about:

Romans 1:20 - For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (ESV)

The world is created (G2889 *kosmō*):

John 17:5 - And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (ESV)

The "world" is reconcilable. I think what "reconciliation of the world" means is that people who are taken from the world who come to abide in Christ are no longer "of the world":

Romans 11:15 - For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? (ESV)

I Corinthians 4:9 (Interlinear)]] I think for - God us - apostles last has exhibited as appointed to death because a spectacle (G2302 *theatron*) we have become (G1096 *egenēthēmen*) to the (G3588 *tō*) world (G2889 *kosmō*) both (G2532 *kai*) to angels (G32 *angelois*) and (G2532 *kai*) to men (G444 *anthrōpois*)

II Peter 3:6-8 does actually connect "world" to the world used for "heavens and Earth", so they're not separate things. But the terms for "heavens and Earth" are not about the people who reside there. When we talk about the "world", it's referring to both an evil generation of people and it's referring to a "heavens and earth" which are to be destroyed:

II Peter 3:6-8 - and that by means of these the world (G2889 *kosmos*: world) that then (G5119 *tote*: at that time) existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens (G3772 *ouranoi*: the heavens) and earth (G1093 *gē*: earth) that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (ESV)

However it works, there is no escaping the fact that we must stand before the judgement seat of Christ. Even if JW believe they go on residing living on the Earth from age to age, there is still no escaping the judgement seat of Christ, and there is certainly a separation that happens:

Matthew 13:37-43 - He answered, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (ESV)

Matthew 24:31 - And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (ESV)

As children of promise, walking by faith rather than by sight, we should be desiring a heavenly country, not an earthly one:

Hebrews 11:12-19 - Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:18 - The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:1-7 - For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. (ESV)

I do not believe in "reincarnation" into the same 'kosmos' (G2889 kosmos: world). At the close of the age the bad people get sent to the bad place and the good people go to a distinct 'kosmos' where righteousness dwells. I believe that the righteousness go to heaven with incorruptable bodies, rather than back to Earth:

Matthew 13:45-52 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things? They said to him, Yes. And he said to them, Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.

II Peter 3:1-8 - This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation. For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** (ESV)

I do not believe that with the bodily resurrection that we will return to an Earth with corruption in it:

Acts 2:27 - For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. (ESV)

With the resurrection of the body, we do not die anymore, and do not marry anymore:

Matthew 22:30 - For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (ESV)

Being born-again of the spirit, yet still on the Earth, I do not believe it is sinful for me to marry. Except that I have made commitment to the Lord Jesus already that I would not. As I told Jesus, everything is on the backburner until He speaks to me.

Some fall asleep in Christ and then are raised. But some do not all sleep but are changed in a moment:

I Corinthians 15:17-22 - And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (ESV)

The body needs to die to be raised to life:

I Corinthians 15:36 - You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:51-58 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

We need to be keepers of Jesus Christ's commandments to put on immortality:

Romans 2:5-11 - But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

I think this is how it works: First there is the resurrection of the spirit (2 April 2022 for me), which is being baptised into Christ's death and raised to new life. Then there is the resurrection of the body. It's normal for a born-again Christian to also die an earthly death but this is not the death of the spirit. The person's consciousness continues after bodily death. And the physical body is resurrected also to life:

I Corinthians 15:42 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. (ESV)

When people the righteous rise from the dead with their resurrection body, they are like angels - imperishable, never to die anymore. There is certainly no reincarnation for them. While I believe there are "many" ages of the Earth, I do not believe in an earthly reincarnation. After one go in this Earth, I believe the righteous go to heaven. And heaven is a place without corruption. That's my beliefs:

Mark 12:25 - For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (ESV)

Luke 20:33-36 - In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife. And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead **neither marry nor are given in marriage**, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are **sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.** (ESV)

Personally, I am anticipating rapture, and look forwards to ultimately an **entirely new** heavens and earth where righteousness dwells. I don't want to live in the AI Golden [Calf] Age (which is what I've started calling it). It's not for me:

II Corinthians 5:9-10 - So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (ESV)

We detach from the "world", (Biblical separation. i.e. while there might not be physical distancing, we distance ourselves by applied holy living), but remain in the world as lights:

I Corinthians 7:31 - and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

Philippians 2:15 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (ESV)

Being crucified with Christ, there is a real separation between us and "the world". It's growing as a wheat:

Galatians 6:14 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (ESV)

James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (ESV)

And God takes us to a new heavens and earth where righteousness dwells, like Noah here:

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (ESV)

We die to the "elemental spirits of the world" and are no longer enslaved to the "elementary principles of the world":

Colossians 2:20 - If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— (ESV)

Galatians 4:3 - In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. (ESV)

Agape love is essentially a treasuring, preserving love. We have a real Biblical separation from the world. Like Noah:

I John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (ESV)

I John 4:5 - They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. (ESV)

OK, so people who do not know God wouldn't know the children of God:

I John 3:1 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (ESV)

We've got to love God:

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV)

Hate the sin but not the sinner (**Ezekiel 18:23**). So long as we are in this world the objective is to get people saved. Love people but love truth, and hate falsehood. Because agape love is a treasuring, preserving love, it's absolutely mandatory to agape love our family in Christ. Agape love without truth is not agape love:

Book timothykeller.com: Counterfeit Gods - Timothy Keller

Sermon youtube.com: Counterfeit Gods - Tim Keller

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle

but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For **what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:1-3 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (ESV)

Galatians 4:9 - But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

I Corinthians 2:12 - Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (ESV)

There's a lot in the Bible to explain what is the revealed will of God. Continuing on in discerning the will of God we should have a renewed mind. We should obey Jesus:

youtube.com: How Do We Know the Will of God? | John Piper Clip {@desiringGod} The Bible does not tell you which person to marry, or whether to marry. The Bible does not tell you which car to drive, or buy, rent. The Bible doesn't tell you whether to buy a home or not which home to buy. [The] Bible doesn't tell you which brand of orange juice to drink. There are 10,000 decisions you must make that are not explicitly addressed in the Bible so what do you do? If you want to obey the will of command my answer is you must have a renewed mind. That's what the text says.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that **by testing** you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and **acceptable** and perfect. (ESV)

We end up thinking in a similar fashion to Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to **do** the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! **Let your good Spirit lead me** on level ground! (ESV)

Where loving your family in Christ (the children of God) is absolutely mandatory, the same level of commitment to "do good" is not given to those who are in opposition to God:

Psalms 139:19-24 - Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain! Do I not hate (H6962. quwt, loathe) those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (ESV)

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

Mark 9:40 - For the one who is not against us is for us. (ESV)

The Apostle John says to be able to know that we are loving **the children of God**, we must be keeping His commandments. So the way to love our family in Christ is clearly defined for us. People don't have a legitimate claim to say "You're not loving me" if you're keeping God's commandments:

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

We're called to still share the Truth of God to the World:

John 3:17 - For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)

John 18:20 - Jesus answered him, I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. (ESV)

John 12:47 - If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. (ESV)

Matthew 13:38-39 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. (ESV)

Matthew 5:14 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (ESV)

Agape-ing things of this world is worldly-mindedness and makes it very difficult to discern the will of God:

Luke 11:43 - Woe to you Pharisees! For you love (**agapate**) the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. (ESV)

youtube.com: Petra - Beyond Belief @time: 29 min 43 sec I've been looking over your recent stats. You're going to have to run well in this one, guy. yes sir. We still think you've got potential. The scholarship could be yours, but you're going to have to really want it. I do sir. Good, cuz as far as your concerned **this race is the most important thing in your life.** Be out there in 30 minutes.

Danny, can I ask you something? Sure. When you grow up and move away, would you still be my brother? Chad, you can't change that. You think you'll forget about us? How can I forget about you? You're my brother. Hey, tell you what, I've been wanting to give this to you for a long time. As God is our witness, brothers forever. Woww. okay boys, let's settle down. Dad, can I ask you something? Sure, pal. When we grow up and move away, will you still be my dad? I'll always be your dad and that'll never change. Do you promise? **Son, the most important thing in our our Lives is that we always love each other.** Now, you remember that, okay? Okay boys, prayers.

It's not just about agape loving our neighbour / other people. We must agape love (treasure, value) God too and that means remembering His name and His Son and His words. This is an absolute must. The gospel still needs to be preached:

Psalms 9:17 - The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God. (ESV)

Lord of Eternity - Fernando Ortega (Live) Lord of Eternity; Blessed is the man; Who walks in Your favor; Who loves all Your words; And hides them like treasure; In the darkest place; Of his desperate heart, They are a light; A strong, sure light.

Psalms 84:11 - For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (ESV)

Those who will to agape love God must also will to love his brother or they are not loving God:

I Peter 1:8 - **Though you have not seen him, you love (G25 agapate) him.** Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (ESV)

I John 4:20-21 - If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for **he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves (G25 agapōn) God must also love (G25 agapa) his brother.** (ESV)

If we keep Jesus' commandments and love our family in Christ, God all things will work together for our good:

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)

We believe in Him, and keep His commandments, and come to know Him:

John 20:29 - Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. (ESV)

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

OK, so we accept forgiveness from God, we forgive others, and we then walk in that reality and don't turn back - we live that reality out. We accept that God has loved us by making atonement through Jesus' blood, and then we pass-forward that loving forgiveness to others and we walk in that reality and don't turn back.

II Corinthians 4:11-12 - For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. (ESV)

We must have faith in Jesus to be justified by faith. I believe the finished work of Christ is enough, but that God is still working, His grace extending through faithful obedience to Jesus, Jesus grace reaches more people:

II Corinthians 4:11-15 - For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, I believed, and so I spoke, we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. (ESV)

We also try to live holy lives - be holy as He is Holy.

We put on Christ:

Galatians 3:27-28 - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. (ESV)

When the day of judgement comes, we must have accepted forgiveness from God, or face the wrath of God:

Romans 4:7-8 - Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. (ESV)

When the day of judgement comes, we should be loving our brother and sister in Christ, or we may face the wrath of God:

I John 4:17-21 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

Our sins are forgiven and we love one another the way Christ loved us. It should be our aim to have arrived at this point where we are living in this reality as soon as possible:

I John 2:11-12 - But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. (ESV)

If we are merciful then we will receive mercy:

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

James 2:13 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

To get to know Jesus, we **must obey** His commandments:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

Belief leads to **obedience** which leads to **knowledge** of the truth:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

Eternal life is knowing God and Jesus Christ who He has sent:

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

We need to take hold of it:

I Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (ESV)

In order to know God we must love one another in the way that God has loved us:

I John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

We live through the life of Jesus in this intellectual and experiential knowledge - a bit like an umbilical cord:

I John 4:8-11 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might **live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Jesus Himself is the bread of God - Jesus Himself **is** the source of life:

John 6:33 - For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

We should labor for the food that endures to eternal life:

John 6:27 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. (ESV)

John 4:34 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (ESV)

We have to put sin away after we come to believe in Him:

Colossians 3:5-10 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these *you too once walked, when you were living in them.* But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have **put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**

A new creation lives for Christ:

II Corinthians 5:14-17 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Being born-again, my old man died and now my life is hidden with Christ in God, and I'm seated with Him in the heavenly places in Christ living to serve Jesus:

Colossians 3:3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, (ESV)

Ephesians 2:6 - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

Being born-again, we are called to separate from darkness. And what happens if a person does not? Well, I would say to make an analogy that it would be like remaining in Egypt after God has called them out. Can a person remain in the metaphorical house of Egypt (in the house of slavery to sin) as someone who has been born-again, washed but then caught up in sin again and still claim to be saved?

Even Simon the magician believed and was baptised but it is evident that even the Apostle Peter recognised that Simon might perish. As far as I can tell Simon had not yet received Holy Spirit. His heart still wasn't right. Just like Simon, we must receive the love of the truth in our heart to be saved. Simon was instructed to **repent from sin**. While true agape love is the bond of perfection, I think the bond of iniquity might mean a love of darkness. Simon had to relinquish his sinful desire. Likewise, the rich young ruler (in Mark 10:17-27) had a love of worldly possessions. We need to agape love the truth and fall out of love of darkness. Even as believers, we need to continue on in the teachings of Christ to be saved:

Acts 8:13-23 - Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him, May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! **You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent**, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in **the bond of iniquity**. (ESV)

Jesus' words are true. As I understand it, probably Simon Magus "had" salvation when he believed and was baptised but salvation is a process and as Jesus says, the devil steals the word for a person's heart so that they do not believe. So a person must continue in true faith. As I currently understand it, we also must not "fall away". We must endure in our faith. Simon Magus needed to repent from sin to receive Holy Spirit and in order to continue on in true justifying faith in Jesus, as I understand it:

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Jesus said to these believers that if they abide in His word (and I believe that means keep His word, even in obedience), they are His disciples - so a person can be a believer before they are a disciple. But we're supposed to make this transition:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

I think after having my spirit washed and regenerated engaging in sinful things is still **dangerous**. Like, sin was a big issue before I was born-again but after being regenerated and washed, doubling down on sin seems like it would put someone in a worse position. Where before the slavery would be like, "I know it's sin and I don't want to stop." God gives us the opportunity to be a position of "knowing it's sin and Holy Spirit helping us to be blameless and to not sin and feeling clean and confident", but to go on sinning and get oneself enslaved to it again would enter a position of "I know it's sin and I can't stop, and I wish I could get back to the place where Holy Spirit washed me." So we have to leave the Egypt of slavery to sin and walking in darkness. When God pulls us out of the pit, we must shake off the flesh mindset, and shake off the ways of the world (the wisdom of the world is actual folly in light of the truth) and walk the way God wants us to walk, and this is being rescued:

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (ESV)

I think Paul is warning here that it's best that it's better that the flesh be destroyed than to remain practicing sinful things, so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. That's a firm warning. While we are in the world we are to cleanse out the old leaven, and put on the mind of Christ, and walk in holiness and in love.

God washes us and regenerates us and gives us the power to walk the way He wants us to walk, and to live in the Truth, so it doesn't make sense to return to worldly explanations of we're experiencing, but it does make sense to be renewed in mind and be corrected by the Scripture, and taught by Holy Spirit:

Ezekiel 36:25-28 - I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanliness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. (ESV)

Because Jesus is the Truth, and before our eyes are opened we were in darkness, God is opening our eyes to see more truth, and see things in greater clarity the way they really are:

II Corinthians 5:17-22 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

II Corinthians 6:14-18 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

Galatians 4:3-9 - In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:4-13 - When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

We have authority in God:

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

Matthew 20:27-28 - and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

We must be in Christ Jesus. Those who have been born-again have become obedient to Jesus Christ. Having been born-again, we walk by faith, not sight:

Romans 8:23-25 - And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:6-7 - So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. (ESV)

We don't transition away from being servants of Jesus when we become friends of Jesus - we still serve and obey Him. Jesus started calling His servants His friends because Jesus had explained to them all He heard from Father God. Jesus' friends still serve Jesus, and they obey Jesus but they also know what Jesus is doing.

John 15:14-15 - You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

We must be born-again:

Quote of John Piper Your life becomes a foretaste for others of your cherished future. But if your future that you cherish is grace coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ and that is your treasure, and that is your hope and that is your faith and that is your vision and what you hold onto and embrace, **you cannot return evil for evil**. You know *why* you cannot return evil for evil? (If that's where your heart is.) Because the **cherished grace that's coming is that He's not going to return evil for evil to you**. Then we cannot turn around and have a lifestyle of returning evil for evil or insulting for insulting, and therefore the point of saying it's a condition for that is simply this, "**You must be born again.**" Therefore, it's a condition, not in the sense of earning anything but in the sense of bearing witness that you've fallen in love and live out of that confidence.

Amen. I want to say though that I obey Jesus when I'm feeling depressed and having a bad day myself, it most certainly still counts as love to Jesus. If I'm suffering for exercising obedient faith in Jesus, that obedience is still loving Jesus. In fact, it's more blessed to give than to receive. The obedience is still done out of love for Jesus and out of faith in Jesus. I believe that obedience to Jesus is an expression of faith in Jesus, and an expression of love for Jesus, and hope in Jesus. I've invested my life in Jesus, and happy about it because I believe and hope in Jesus.

Jesus was obedient while sorrowful:

Mark 14:32-36 - And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, Sit here while I pray. And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch. And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will. (ESV)

To love your neighbour as yourself means forgiving them too, and remember that Jesus forgave us. It also means to not take vengeance (Christ's law includes not rendering evil for evil):

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

Romans 12:9-21 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

OK, so to be obedient while enduring suffering, which God has allowed is love which is greater than faith and hope which both abide; It's more blessed to give than to receive. I would argue though that to maintain an affectionate love for God while enduring suffering which God has allowed to happen is even more difficult and more blessed than to maintain good works while suffering. Love gives - love obeys Jesus' teaching. Love forgives and gives while being stolen from and abused - love obeys. Love praises God and affectionately loves God despite experiencing being thrown into darkness and God allowing them to be tormented by the enemy..

Faithfulness to Jesus, though, is a baseline requirement:

Matthew 24:12-13 - And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

See how faithfulness is related to faith - faith is faithful to God. Having faith in God is keeping accountability with God with regard to His commands and promises and maintaining faithfulness with God who sees in secret:

II Timothy 2:13 - if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

I have a strong desire to do what God wants me to do as I feel comfortable that God is on my side and will not put me to shame for my shortcomings because I am trusting Him. If the devil tries to damage me to make me sin and I sin I know I have confidence that God is still taking care of me and knows everything. Now I know I want to love other people because I have joy in knowing God. But on a bad day, especially during this intense trial that I face, I have confidence that even though I may have a **Job 23:1-17** day, I will still keep my heart of obedience to God, especially the call to love others because I do not want to misrepresent God or shame God in public which would be akin to taking His name in vain.

Job 23:1-17 - Then Job answered and said: Today also my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy on account of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me. Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; he would pay attention to me. There an upright man could argue with him, and I would be acquitted forever by my judge. Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I do not perceive him; on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold. My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have not turned aside. I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food. But he is unchangeable, and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does. For he will complete what he appoints for me, and many such things are in his mind. Therefore I am terrified at his presence; when I consider, I am in dread of him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; yet I am not silenced because of the darkness, nor because thick darkness covers my face. (ESV)

So I have a joy that's in God, yes, but it does not mean that on a bad day (when I complain to God and feel as though I have no joy) that I have no love for God. I'm fully convinced that Job still loved God, and the "joy" of God was most likely still deep in Job's heart even though he felt bitter. That's how I feel sometimes. I love Jesus but I tell him I'm angry at him. Perhaps a bit like Martin Luther's psychosis:

youtube.com: The Insanity of Luther: The Holiness of God with R.C. Sproul He had such a fear of the wrath of God that early on in his ministry somebody put this question to him: "Brother Martin, do you love God?" You know what he said? He said, "Love God? You ask me if I love God? Love God? Sometimes I hate God. I see Christ as a consuming judge who is simply looking at me to evaluate me and to visit affliction upon me.

And I am convinced that God still loves Job even when he had a bad complaint and he felt bitterness. And I'm convinced that Martin Luther also loved God and God loved Martin Luther.

Jesus says that the one who loves Him is the one who keeps His commandments. Amen.

I Corinthians 1:10-15 - I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, I follow Paul, or I follow Apollos, or I follow Cephas, or I follow Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (ESV)

When I receive the Apostle Paul's words, I think of myself as receiving Paul. When I receive the Apostle Peter's words, I think of myself as receiving Peter. So I do not think that the Roman Catholic church has some kind of monopoly on the Apostle Peter. But people can receive Christ through receiving Peter through the gospel.

Matthew 10:40 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. (ESV)

I John 5:9-13 - If we receive the testimony of men, **the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.** Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

Pope Francis was wrong here when he says that all religions are a path to God:

Watch youtube.com: MUST SEE!!! This is REALLY BAD for Christians!!! | MacArthur, Baucham, Issues with the new Pope {@PreachingforGodsGlory} @time: 8 min 19 sec

It's a real shame this happened. Also he's wrong that all people are sons and daughters of God. At best the Pope is the leader of the Roman Catholic church but certainly not of Christendom. Even still, the true Apostle Paul led people to Christ so Christ can be their Lord. Paul didn't lord over his flock, but asked his flock to imitate him in imitating Christ.

II Corinthians 4:5 - For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (ESV)

youtube.com: When You See This Sign, the Antichrist is Imminent {@OrthodoxEthos} When salvation like the perennialists teach can be found, we can arrive at communion with God whether we're Hindus or Muslims or Christians or when that is become accepted among Christians. That's going to be a sign that the antichrist is imminent.

...

No, there there would be no one world religion in in the sense of uniting, manifesting externals, you know, rituals converging doesn't there doesn't need to be. If you know anything about perennialism, that's really I think a type of perennialism will be what the what the antichrist will preach. And this has been taken up by a few Christians including the previous pope which is a terrible terrible thing. This idea that God willed the religions and that the religions are paths for union with God; a total 'innovation', unprecedented, unheard of in the petristic teachings.

Let's hope that the new Pope is not a blind guide as Francis was. I believe in the right to become a child of God to those who believe in Jesus Christ as Son of God, so I believe they have the right to be corrected and sanctified by the Truth:

II John 1:7-11 - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. **Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching (1322. didaché) of Christ, does not have God.** Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. (ESV)

Matthew 15:13-14 - He answered, Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit. (ESV)

Watch youtube.com: POPE Leo "DEFENDS" false RELIGIONS...? {@thetraditionalthomist}

We have to be in agreement with the truth, walking in the light, to be children of God:

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

Galatians 3:5-7 - Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by **hearing with faith** — just as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. (ESV)

youtube.com: How should Christians respond to hearing Denominations aren't SAVED ? | Sam Shamoun {

Meaning, hey, Peter the rock baptized me. See, I'm better. Paul baptized you. So, what you find today was true back then in the lifetime of the apostles. Even the presence of the apostles could not guarantee perfect

union among the churches. So why would you expect in the absence of the apostles were not physically with us that today we're going to have perfect union? If they could be divided even in lifetime of the apostles, expect us to be divided now without this implying we're not brothers and sisters in Jesus.

So now let's take a modern example, the Roman Catholic Church appeals to Peter as being the rock upon which the church is built and I agree with that but they also say and then Peter appointed the bishop of Rome as a successor.

So now imagine the situation is the same today. Roman Catholics say well I belong to Peter. The Coptics say well we belong to John Mark because tradition says it was John Mark who established the church in Egypt. And then the Assyrian church and he says well we belong to Bartholomew, to Thomas.

So you're doing the same thing that they were doing back then.

I Corinthians 1:10-15 - I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, I follow Paul, or I follow Apollos, or I follow Cephas, or I follow Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (ESV)

When you say I'm the church of the east, well, you're basically saying, well, I'm I'm of Thomas Bartholomew. When you say I'm the Roman Catholic church, well, I'm Peter. When you say you're doing the same thing today that they were doing at the time of Paul and Paul says, no, Peter baptized you, you're still a brother in Christ. Paul baptized you, you're still a brother in Christ. Apollos baptized you. It doesn't matter who led you to faith, who discipled you, because we're all one body and we have one head. Praise God you follow Apollos. Praise God you follow Paul. Praise God you follow Peter. Because we are all one body. We're not different bodies preaching a different head.

AMEN!!

Now on some of Martin Luther's comments. I certainly agree with Martin Luther on some of these points. I'm not a Roman Catholic.

[@LuxVeritatis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13 Reasons Luther Was EXCOMMUNICATED from the Catholic Church!)

#1 "there is no true, basic difference between laymen and priests." #2 "they play about with words..., trying to persuade us that the pope cannot err in matters of faith." #3 "if we are all priests... why should we not also have the power to test and judge what is right or wrong in matters of the faith?" #4 "leave every man free to marry or not marry" #5 "popes, bishops and monks. God has not instituted these offices." #6 "What spirit gave the pope authority to canonize saints?" #7 "Transubstantiation is a Monsterous idea." #8 "He describes as 'wicked' the belief that 'the mass is a good work and a sacrifice.'" #9 "Christ has given every one of his believers the power to absolve even open sins." #10 "I deny that they (the 7 sacraments) can be proved from Scripture."

I agree with Luther on most of his points made in this video, actually. I believe he must have had a real relationship with Jesus. I'm not a Roman Catholic. But I love Jesus Christ and trust His teachings, I believe He's the Son of God, came from God, that He is Jehovah as Father God is Jehovah and they are One and I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and endeavour to keep and teach His commandments. And God made me born-again of the Spirit as I was seeking Him. I'm a born-again Christian but I'm not a Roman Catholic. I don't think that means that [all] Roman Catholics are not Christians. There is one Judge. I profess to be a follower of Christ, and I certainly do not think that the Roman Catholic church has any authority over me.

I think that Jesus does have some expectation that people should be able to read the what the prophets have spoken but that we do need Holy Spirit to help us to interpret the Scriptures. I think that William Tyndale has done a good thing in helping to distribute the Holy Scripture, as the meaning of the Scripture, what God actually meant, is the Truth:

Luke 24:25-27 - And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (ESV)

Luke 24:32 - They said to each other, Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? (ESV)

I love it when I have the II Corinthians 8:2 joy which spills over into following Jesus' commandments - it makes it much easier!

We should be serving in gladness and joy because we have perspective - we have God, and we should have joy in serving God and being used by God:

youtube.com: Overcoming Spiritual Dryness @time: 9 min 7 sec The fight for joy is not a fight to be comfortable or have security or be prosperous or any other of the American 'ideals' that are advertised to us every day. It is a fight to join Jesus on the Calvary road. The fight to be happy is a fight to join Jesus on the Calvary road.

It's not a praise God anyhow road. It's a road of suffering, it's a road of tears, it's a road of empathy with all the dying people that you're aware of, or who's marriages are in trouble or who's kids are on drugs. It's the people you know that are broken in your vicinity and your joy is going to become a high pressure zone that begins to make wind when it bumps up against low-pressure zones of need and that wind is called love. Because your joy is moving out and spilling over - "I have so much in Jesus, I know I have a lot of stuff but oh I'm brimming with what really counts in life and I'm going to use my stuff and my time and my energy to make your day for Jesus. I want to serve you for Jesus."

Joy in God spilling over into serving God is where we want to be:

II Corinthians 8:2 - for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. (ESV)

This is the road we should be on:

Hebrews 12:2 - looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (ESV)

- youtube.com: Overcoming Spiritual Dryness

It's good to have God. Having God is truly having everything we need:

II Corinthians 6:10 - as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, **yet possessing everything.** (ESV)

We're actually commanded to delight ourselves in God, and it's for our own good. It's the correct way to think:

Psalms 37:4 - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (ESV)

Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. (ESV)

Cesare Borgia (Atheist) While I lived, I provided for everything but death. Now I must die and I'm unprepared to die.

Sir Thomas Scott a privy councillor of James V. of Scotland, was a noted persecutor of the reformers. Being taken suddenly ill, and finding himself dying, he cried out to the Roman priests who sought to comfort him, "Begone, you and your trumpery; **until this moment I believed that there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and I feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty.**"

If you're keeping Jesus' words, and valuing them and seeking to live by them then you'll be loved by Jehovah God, Abba Father God for loving Jesus:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

The following is Scripture and trumps my own thoughts. I affirm these verses wholeheartedly:

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, **if** anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The **old has passed away;** behold, the **new has come.**

A **new creation** has faith working through love and keeps Jesus Christ's commandments:

Galatians 6:15 - For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but **a new creation.** (ESV)

We both love/obey (**25. agapaó**) Jesus and believe/trust (**4100. pisteuó**) in Him and receive the outcome of our faith, the salvation of our souls. :

I Peter 1:8-9 - Though you have not seen him, **you love (25. agapaó) him.** Though you do not now see him, **you believe (4100. pisteuó) in him** and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.** (ESV)

If we choose instead to obey the flesh (the sinful nature) then that would lead to corruption (Gal 6:7-8). If we choose to obey sin instead of obey God then that would lead to death (Romans 6:23) as sin in the flesh has been condemned (Romans 8:1-6). If we choose to obey Christ instead of sin then we will be saved (Hebrews 5:8-9). If we obey the One True God then we'll receive the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 5:8-9). It's much better to have eternal life and nice rewards from God than it is to be overcome by sin, so we should sow to the Spirit (Gal 6:7-8).

And our trusting love is not merely obedient by affectionate:

John 16:27 - for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved (**5368. phileó**) me and have believed (**4100. pisteuó**) that I came from God. (ESV)

1 Cognate: 25 agapáō – properly, to prefer, to love; for the believer, preferring to "live through God"

2 With the believer, 25 /agapáō ("to love") means actively doing what the Lord prefers, with Him (by a "discriminating affection which involves choice and selection" (WS, 477)). 1 Jn 4:8,16,17 for example

1 5368 phileó (from 5384 /phílos, "affectionate friendship") – properly, to show warm affection in its object

Song Steve Apirana - Born Again - YouTube

Out with the old selfish self and in with the new selflessly loving self:

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but **only faith working through love.** (ESV)

Baptism should result in faith working through/by love; maintaining faith in Jesus, and passing-forward love. This is really what it means to have put on Christ - to have received forgiveness and love from God through faith and then to forgive and love others:

Galatians 3:25-27 - But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (ESV)

Out with the old selfish self and in with the new selflessly loving, and obedient to God self:

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but **keeping the commandments of God.** (ESV)

There is a change in our lives:

Ephesians 2:3-7 - among whom we all **once lived** in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

And eventually His commandments become unburdensome, and we're keeping them, and we have confidence we have come to know Him:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

We must live in the spirit the way God does, not for human passions, but for the will of God:

I Peter 4:1-6 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might **live in the spirit the way God does.** (ESV)

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit

himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

youtube.com: Matthew 4:12-25: The Hidden Truth About God's Heavenly Kingdom | Jason Camacho {

Why does Jesus's ministry begin by the sea, and why does he first call fishermen to follow him, and why does his ministry resemble the stories of certain Biblical characters? You're about to see how Jesus's Ministry is framed up as a new Exodus and a new creation at the same time. And you're also about to see how Jesus is presented as both a new Moses and a new Joshua.

...

Jesus is the light of God coming into the darkness and the condition of our dark world to bring the light of God and the life of God. He's initiating a new creation. At the same time, though, there's water language, there's the Gentiles, there's the darkness present, and I'm going to show you how Jesus is also bringing about a new exodus as the greater Moses.

So for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death on them a light has dawned and Jesus is that light as John's gospel tells us.

youtube.com: Matthew 4:12-25: The Hidden Truth About God's Heavenly Kingdom | Jason Camacho {

So let's just go to Isaiah chapter 9 real quick. This is what Matthew is quoting from.

Isaiah 9:1-2 - But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. (ESV)

youtube.com: Matthew 4:12-25: The Hidden Truth About God's Heavenly Kingdom | Jason Camacho {

Jesus's ministry is, number one, the light of God descending upon His people in darkness, just like the light of God at creation shines into the darkness to bring life. Number two: the ministry of Jesus is framed up as the salvation of God coming down to rescue his people who are in death and oppression like Israel in the Exodus story. So this is not only a new creation story, this is a new Exodus story. Which both of those are actually connected. So Jesus here is the light of God shining into the darkness of the world to bring God's New Creation to bring new life, and Jesus at the same time is the salvation of God coming down to rescue people who are in a new kind of Egypt, which is the death and the consequence of sin. They're in oppression, they're enslaved, they need rescue. So there's a new Exodus and a new creation that's in its formation and it looks like the kingdom of God coming. And how does that kingdom of God come into the world to bring the light and the life of God? Well it looks like verse 17. From that time Jesus began to preach saying repent (change your mind) for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand or here. And with this preaching and kingdom comes the light and the life that you need as you're in the shadow of death and darkness. So there's this new King and His heavenly kingdom is bringing the light and salvation of God that Humanity needs. You know, just like at the Exodus God heard the cries of his people in oppression and visited them in their affliction. Well now Jesus is the answer of God to humanity's cry in their affliction and in their, you know, slavery to sin.

My thoughts (an analogy) If someone was living in Egypt and was given daily food on the basis that they would bow to an idol once every day, and then by faith they heeded God's call to leave Egypt and go to a promised land of abundance without idolatry, and then in the wilderness they began getting very hungry and it looked like they might run out of food and die in the desert, but by faith they believed that God would supply their needs instead of pining over an idolatrous way of life, then God or someone God had sent (maybe a "good samaritan" bedouin for example) brought them some food and they ate the food then the initial leaving of Egypt or the receiving of the food itself could both be described as that initial step of faith, or having arrived at salvation but the "putting hand to the plough and not looking back" and the actual

consumption of the food could be described as the "working out of that salvation" which is a process that continues. And the 'process' of being saved is the salvation.

I Peter 1:8-9 - Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

I Cor 1:18,21,27 - For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:1-3 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (ESV)

God needed to then get the Egypt out of the Israelites, and train them to trust Him, and this removal of idols etc. to come to follow God's commandments is part of the working out of the salvation. We are saved to serve God and we're still being saved as we are getting the Egypt out of us.

Luke 1:73-75 - the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. (ESV)

All this is done as we **hold** our faith in Jesus, believing in His finished work on the cross and His passion. Jesus supports us as we do this.

I Corinthians 15:2 - and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

As we **hold** our faith in Jesus Christ's finished work we still continue to obey God and repent from sin and are sanctified into better obedience, better faith, better obedience of faith.

I Corinthians 10:4-5 - and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. (ESV)

So if someone says that when they first believed in their heart the gospel they were saved, based entirely on Jesus' finished works, this is correct in a way, but Jesus has purchased the salvation which is a process to be worked out, and I just think the fullness of the gospel has a lot more to it.

We must continue to hold our faith. We are saved to perpetually trust, believe, love and obey God:

Romans 11:17-23 - But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. (ESV)

When we believe God's word given through Jesus, we have passed from death to life. We should definitely then listen to Jesus to see what He has actually spoken.

We must be slaves of Christ, not slaves of sin, in order to abide forever in Him:

John 8:34-36 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

God help us put sin to death please.

Whoever is believing the words of God which Jesus has spoken has eternal life:

John 5:24 - Truly truly I say to you that the [one] the word of Me hearing and believing the [One] having sent Me he has life eternal and into judgment not comes but has passed out of - death into - life (Interlinear)

1 281 281 3004 4771 3754 3588 3588 3056
2 Amēn amēn legō hymin hoti ho ton logon
3 ,
4 Truly truly I say to you that the [one] the word
5 Heb Heb V-PIA-1S PPro-D2P Conj Art-NMS Art-AMS N-AMS
6
7 1473 191 2532 4100 3588 3992 1473 [e]
8 mou akouōn kai pisteuōn tō pemptanti me
9 , ,
10 of Me hearing and believing the [One] having sent Me
11 PPro-G1S V-PPA-NMS Conj V-PPA-NMS Art-DMS V-APA-DMS PPro-A1S
12
13 2192 2222 166 2532 1519 2920 3756 2064 235
14 echei zōēn aiōnion kai eis krisin ouk erchetai alla
15 ,
16 he has life eternal and into judgment not comes but
17 V-PIA-3S N-AFS Adj-AFS Conj Prep N-AFS Adv V-PIM/P-3S Conj
18
19 3327 1537 3588 2288 1519 3588 2222
20 metabebēken ek tou thanatou eis tēn zōēn
21 .
22 has passed out of - death into - life
23 V-RIA-3S Prep Art-GMS N-GMS Prep Art-AFS N-AFS

I think John 5:24 reads that the one who is trusting the words spoken through Jesus, trusting God, trusting Jesus is holds/possesses eternal life and has passed/is passing/passes from death into life.

2064. erchomai to come, go

3327. metabain to pass over, withdraw, depart

In trusting Jesus' words - or even His name (**onoma**) and He is the judge - we do not come into judgement, but change direction, and instead our destiny is life eternal. Jesus is the judge of that. We do not come into judgement:

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (KJV)

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears (**191. akouó**) my word (**3056. logos**) and believes (**4100. pisteúo**) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed (**3327. metabain**) from death to life. (ESV)

John 3:18 - Whoever believes (**G4100 pisteuōn**) in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name (**onoma**) of the only Son of God. (ESV)

An indication that we have passed from death to life and we have the trusting faith that receives eternal life is that we agapé / treasure our family in Christ:

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

John 5:17-29 - But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)

Belief (in the heart) that Jesus is the Son of God leads to:

- experiencing the love of God, and
- overcoming the world, which feels like:
 - God's commandments are not burdensome
 - * Having agape for God and family in Christ and even for other people, and
 - * not having agape for the world or worldly things
 - * we love Jesus and want to be around Him
 - * we desire/love to do God's commandments instead of grieve to do them

I John 5:3-5 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (ESV)

Acts 28:27 - For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.”

Song youtube.com: Pat Barrett - Build My Life {feat. Chris Tomlin} {Live}

New creation love:

Quote from John Piper Love is the overflow of joy that meets the needs of others.

II Corinthians 8:1-2 - We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. (ESV)

Quote from John Piper Christ-exalting love for people is the overflow of joy in God or it's not love in a Biblical sense.

New creation love is emulating Christ's love towards others from a position of a good conscience with God having been obedient to the gospel or it's not love in a Biblical sense.

Feel free to quote me on that. It's continued obedience to God that proceeds from a good conscience with God.

Doing righteousness with a good conscience, one's hope brings joy:

Proverbs 10:28 - The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. (ESV)

Job 4:6 - Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope? (ESV)

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

Quote by Mari Mari Emmanuel Until I had a true encounter with Christ, the love of my life, there was never joy within, never joy. When my sins are forgiven, when that beautiful voice, that loving tender kind voice says to me, "I forgive you," then I rejoice. That's why joy is to do with salvation.

Fear of God is not only about having the heart to repent from sin and "beat hand on chest and ask God for mercy", but it is also having a changed heart, endeavoring to please Christ with our actions:

II Corinthians 5:6-11 - So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. (ESV)

Isaiah 66:2 - All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

The repentant sinner next to Jesus on the cross knew he deserved his punishment, and he even demonstrated that he had a heart that obeys the gospel (whereas the other person appears to have been disobedient to the gospel to death):

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

The unrepentant sinner wanted Jesus to save his present life:

Luke 23:39 - One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"

The repentant sinner feared God and put his hope on Jesus Christ, not to save him from the cross, but to save his soul:

Luke 23:40-43 - But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Was it the same age which Paul was in that we are in, or is it a different one? Anyway, rather than speculating on that, I think the main takeaway from this passage is that we should forsake idols, and abide in Christ's teachings, remaining faithful to Jesus in word and deed. I know I have felt tested on giving up idols and it has felt like the end of an age, and we're to remain faithful to Jesus so not join ourselves to people following false-gods. I think Paul surely refers to the end of all ages, at least from his perspective:

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the **end of the age**. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:25-26 - Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the **end of the ages** to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:1-33 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we **might not desire evil** as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is

not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.** Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. For the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, This has been offered in sacrifice, then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. (ESV)

youtube.com: How Much of Christianity Remains a Secret? {@desiringGod} Paul says in the coming ages - that's a lot of Ages, right like they're all coming and they last forever - in the coming ages God will show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus. In other words since the riches of God's grace are infinite since he's God Paul calls them immeasurable. You can't measure them. You never can get to the end of measuring them, and since we are finite and cannot contain all the infinite riches of God's grace it appears that this is why we will have ages upon ages upon ages of being shown them - eternal life.

So we build our life on the Eternal Rock (the Rock of Ages) Jehovah and we have eternal life throughout the ages:

Isaiah 26:4 - Trust ye in Jehovah for ever, For in Jah Jehovah is a **rock of ages**, (YLT)

Isaiah 26:4 - Trust in the LORD forever, because GOD the LORD is the Rock eternal. (engbsb2020eb)

God knows how many ages there are and God knows the day Jesus comes for us:

Isaiah 45:17 - But Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will not be put to shame or humiliated, **to ages everlasting.** (engbsb2020eb)

Isaiah 45:17 - Israel hath been saved in Jehovah, A salvation age-during! Ye are not ashamed nor confounded Unto the ages of eternity! (YLT)

Matthew 24:36 - 'And concerning that day and the hour no one hath known—not even the messengers of the heavens—except my Father only; (YLT)

Matthew 24:42-44 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

John 3:8 - The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

In all likelihood the eschatology of the tribulation and rapture happens at the end of the age. How many ages are there? I simply do not know. Just the next one? Perhaps. More? Perhaps.

1 Our Father in Heaven,
2
3 thank You, God, for loving us first by paying
4 the price for our sin with Jesus' blood.
5
6 Thank You God that we can now love You and our
7 neighbour from a good conscience with You,
8 showing others forgiveness and love as we have
9 received forgiveness and love.
10
11 Please God, help us to trust and obey You
12 through trusting and obey Jesus Christ our
13 Lord.
14
15 Please God never let us fall away but sanctify
16 us through Your Spirit.
17
18 In Jesus Christ's name I ask.
19
20 AMEN!!

We should think as Paul did because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever:

Hebrews 13:7-9 - Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. (ESV)

Walk as an imitator of Christ:

Philippians 3:17-18 - Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:1 - Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (ESV)

We must be imitators of Christ Jesus. See what Paul is doing as an example of imitating Christ. We repent from sin, we do what God says, we are accountable to God with His precepts and are doers of His commandments, we forgive others as we've been forgiven and we love others as we've been loved, and we have our minds set on heavenly things and the promises of God. Our eschatological beliefs should not instill fear in us to forsake faith, obedience, love and hope in Jesus:

Philippians 3:12-21 - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as **enemies of the cross of Christ**. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with **minds set on earthly things**. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

3.1 Being born-again of the Spirit

People were being born according to the Spirit for quite some time before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary but it has been restricted to the children of promise i.e. Abraham's descendants through Isaac:

Galatians 4:28-31 - Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But **just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.** But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

Rather than being born according to the flesh, to be born according to the Spirit happens being born through promise:

Galatians 4:23 - But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. (ESV)

OK, so the Spirit is received through faith (faith like Abraham's) in Jesus Christ to all who believe. The promise was made to Christ. Now we must be found in Christ. Amen:

Galatians 3:13-16 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus **the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.** To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, And to offsprings, referring to many, but referring to one, And to your offspring, who is Christ. (ESV)

It's a very big mystery to me that I was born-again of the Spirit on the first day of Nisan, and had a meeting with the Holy Spirit (apparently) at the tail end of Nisan. Well, whatever it was that happened to me happened.

I had confessed Jesus to the spirit, as documented. But I asked, "Are you the Holy Spirit?" They said, "Yes, I'll take a look at you." But that doesn't mean that it was the Holy Spirit.

Interestingly, the 2 April also line up very closely with Ramadan but not quite. Ramadan started in the evening of 1 April 2022, but it was actually the first day of Nisan, which was a Saturday (Shabbat) that I was born-again:

lmc.edu a-coincidence-that-happens-only-about-every-33-years.htm: In 2022 Passover, Ramadan, and Easter all fall in April, a coincidence that happens only about every 33 years

- 1 In 2022 Passover, Ramadan, and Easter all fall
- 2 in April, a coincidence that happens only
- 3 about every 33 years. The JW believe that Jesus died on 1 April.
- 4 And I've seen other people's estimations that the date was 3 April.
- 5 2 April was also daylight savings. It's a big mystery to me.
- 6 A bunch of other stuff happened that year, and the year that followed. I made a marriage proposal

vercalendario.info compare-5782.html: Jewish Calendar 5782

Event	Dates
Ramadan	Evening of Fri, 1 Apr 2022 – Sun, 1 May 2022
Nisan	2 April 2022 (Saturday) - May 1 2022
Passover	Evening of Fri, 15 Apr 2022 – Sat, 23 Apr 2022
Lent	Wed, 2 Mar 2022 – Thu, 14 Apr 2022
Born-again of the Spirit	2 April 2022
Meeting with Holy Spirit	3 May 2022
Marriage proposal	10 Aug 2022
Pleaded guilty in court	3 May 2023

1 1 Nisan Lunar new year, marking the month of
2 Aviv meaning spring, as the first month of the
3 year, which month was later called Nisan.
4
5 The first national mitzvah that was given to
6 the Jewish people to fix the calendar to the
7 new moon of Aviv, according to the Book of
8 Exodus 12:1-2, 12:18. (c. 1456 BCE)

So I was born-again of the Spirit on 1 Nisan, which commemorates the death of Abraham and the day the floodwaters receded from the earth:

1 1 Nisan The day the floodwaters receded from the earth, after the dove was sent out by Noah and re
2 1 Nisan (c. 1638 BCE) - Death of Abraham according to the Talmud[2]
3 1 Nisan (c. 1533 BCE) - Death of Isaac according to the Talmud[2]
4 1 Nisan (c. 1506 BCE) - Death of Jacob according to the Talmud[2]
5 1 Nisan (c. 1455 BCE) - Tabernacle (Mishkan) inaugurated on the second year "Exodus 40".
6 1 Nisan (c. 1455 BCE) death of Nadab and Abihu[3]
7 1 Nisan (c. 3761 BCE) - Creation of the Universe according to Joshua ben Hananiah's opinion in the
11a).
8 1 Nisan (1772) - Birth of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov[citation needed]
9 1 Nisan (1892) - Death of Rabbi Elimelech Szapira of Grodzhisk

Interestingly, I just found out that 2 April is also the anniversary of the day Pope John Paul II passed away:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_and_funeral_of_Pope_John_Paul_II

It's cool because shortly after I was born-again I received a vision referring to John Paul II:

Read mullikine.github.io: Vision: Sacred heart of Jesus, Technology and God's Army // Bodacious Blog

lifecenter.ca the-hebrew-month-of-nissan-2022.html: THE HEBREW MONTH OF NISSAN {2022} - Ahava Life Centre

Exodus 12:1-2 - The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. (ESV)

I Peter 3:21 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (ESV)

youtube.com: Prophetic Fulfillment of the Biblical Feasts {@livingstrategically} @time: 57 sec In Colossians 2:16-17 Paul says that these feasts are a mere shadow of what is to come but the substance belongs to Christ. Paul is making the point that these biblical feasts are directly linked to the Messiah and to me that makes them worth studying, even though we're not under the law today. The feast can be grouped into two categories, the spring holy days and the Autumn holy days. The spring feasts include Passover, Unleavened bread, First fruits and Pentecost.

The Autumn feasts include the Feast of trumpets the day of atonement and Tabernacles. You may have heard these feasts called by other names, which we'll mention later on. What did these feasts foreshadow? Well this is where things get interesting. The four spring feasts were all specifically fulfilled in the crucifixion, resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that we read about in the Gospels in the Book of Acts. But it wasn't enough for God to merely fulfill the prophetic meaning of each feast, He orchestrated events so that each one was fulfilled on the exact day of the feast.

God's word is incredibly precise and accurate.

Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (ESV)

I just want to say that I don't observe any of these seasons, but it still happened that way. I guess God has liberated me from observing them, among others things, if that makes sense:

Galatians 4:6-11 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? **You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.** (ESV)

As for my circumstances with the marriage proposal, I have no idea if she was ever a believer, only that she used to attend my old Baptist church, but she didn't confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus to me, and I never received a visitation from an angel endorsing it as Joseph received from an angel in a dream regarding taking Mary to be his wife.

James 5:12 - But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. (ESV)

Matthew 5:36-37 - And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply Yes or No; anything more than this comes from evil. (ESV)

James 4:15 - Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that. (ESV)

See how it says that a person does not sin by taking a wife, even after they are called. But Paul says for those who marry after they are called there will be worldly troubles. And also, Paul points out that the present form of the world is passing away, so after we are called by God, we should really be anticipating the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:

I Corinthians 7:24-31 - So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short.** From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

And marriage was instituted by God at the dawn of Creation. And anyone who is not God is not permitted to separate a marriage partner. And anyone who defiles the marriage bed would be judged. I would imagine that includes people who defile other people's marriages:

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor **among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

Galatians 3:15 - To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. (ESV)

Matthew 19:4-9 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses

command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. (ESV)

I think this passage must be given consideration because all scripture is useful for correction and training in righteousness. In my circumstance, I should endeavour to be faithful and obedient to Jesus:

Genesis 6:1-9 - When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years. The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. (ESV)

II Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

I'm committed to just moving forward and waiting on Jesus to speak to me regarding it or there's no change in my decision to renege on the marriage proposal. I want to be found blameless in this situation, like Noah, and don't want anyone to get hurt.

youtube.com: Does the Bible Say You Can Marry a Non-Christian in 1 Corinthians 7:12-16? {@Apply-GodsWordcomMarkBallenger} @time: 1 min 25 sec

Points from I Cor 7:12-17, I Cor 9:5 and Matthew 1:20-25. These passages:

- are not endorsing divorcing an unbelieving spouse.
- only endorsing divorce if the unbelieving spouse wants to leave the believing spouse.
- endorse taking believing wife.
- show that God can clear up any confusion by speaking to us.
- God assigns a wife.

I Corinthians 7:12-17 - To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. Wife, how do you know whether you will save your husband? Husband, how do you know whether you will save your wife? Only let each person lead the life that **the Lord has assigned to him**, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. (ESV)

This verbiage "take along" does sound like "lead about". So what Paul says he might be written more unambiguously as, "Are we not allowed to take around (bring) with us a wife who is a sister in Christ, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?" If that's the way it was meant, then that still implicitly does carry with it the idea that they are allowed to have a wife. But the passage doesn't necessarily speak about

merely "becoming married" (i.e. the right to "become married") but does seem to entail that idea too because if someone has the right to bring along or spend time with their wife then that presupposes that a state of marriage is something someone has the right to be in:

I Corinthians 9:5 - Do we not have the right (G1849 exousian: authority [N-AFS]) to take along (G4013 periagein: to take about [V-PNA], to lead about with oneself) a believing (G79 adelphēn: a sister [N-AFS]. i.e. a sister in Christ) wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? (ESV)

Matthew 1:20-25 - But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (ESV)

I know I'm still waiting for God to help me with this. I need explicit and unambiguous instruction from God which is clearly from the Holy Spirit and not from some other spirit. I've received so much spiritual attack from antichrist spirits right up to today <2025-02-17 Mon>, and so many deceptive dreams and visions etc. and the Bible teaches only to trust spirits which confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus Christ has proceeded from God and arrived in the flesh. Anyway, there are Biblical ways of discerning if a message is from God or not, and as of today I still need God's help to deliver me from this situation.

There's no guarantee the vision I had on 6 Aug 2022 depicting her on the beach next to a door was from God. In fact, Jesus wasn't confessed. It's pretty horrific what has happened to me. The marriage proposal was done while I was holding faith in God, and in Jesus, and I think the devil played on that, knowing that God's grace teaches us to renounce ungodliness, that I needed correction, and I was testing in court if I was prepared to agape love God and obey God and also as my first agape love. And I believe that believers **must** agape love their family in Christ, and we **must** love with agape love and that this love is testable and in the court situation I wanted to remain faithful to Jesus. And now I need to be healed because I feel like a newborn Christian thrown into the abyss right after being born-again on what I think might be the anniversary of Jesus' death on the cross, and I've subsequently been exposed to the corrupting influence of demons continually assailing my soul and relationships etc. for nearly 3 years.

This happened to Ezekiel but there was a good reason God had for it and Ezekiel seems to have handled it well:

Ezekiel 24:15-27 - The word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, behold, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you at a stroke; yet you shall not mourn or weep, nor shall your tears run down. Sigh, but not aloud; make no mourning for the dead. Bind on your turban, and put your shoes on your feet; do not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men. So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died. And on the next morning I did as I was commanded. And the people said to me, Will you not tell us what these things mean for us, that you are acting thus? Then I said to them, The word of the LORD came to me: Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, and the yearning of your soul, and your sons and your daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword. And you shall do as I have done; you shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men. Your turbans shall be on your heads and your shoes on your feet; you shall not mourn or weep, but you shall rot away in your iniquities and groan to one another. Thus shall Ezekiel be to you a sign; according to all that he has done you shall do. When this comes, then you will know that I am the Lord GOD. As for you, son of man, surely on the day when I take from them their stronghold, their joy and glory, the delight of their eyes and their soul's desire, and also their sons and daughters, on that day a fugitive will come to you to report to you the news. On that day your mouth will be opened to the fugitive, and you shall speak and be no longer mute. So you will be a sign to them, and they will know that I am the LORD. (ESV)

Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ in the heart is how to get saved:

Romans 10:6-13 - But **the righteousness based on faith** says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? **The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)**; because, if you confess (G3670 homologeó) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.** For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes (G4100 pisteuōn, believing) in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (ESV)

For those in Christ, we are commanded to agape love others who are in Christ, and that is a must. But for those outside of Christ, who are of the world, we don't unite ourselves to. We do good to all, we love all. But those in Christ we **must** love with agape love or else we are in darkness. So there is an upwards call to agape love everybody. I think Christians do typically love everyone. We love the sinner, but we hate the sin. And we do good to all but take care of our own who depend on us. And Jesus is our first love:

Psalms 139:21 - Do I not hate (H6962. quwt, loathe) those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? (ESV)

H6962. quwt Definition: To loathe, to be disgusted, to feel a sickening dread. Usage: The Hebrew verb "quwt" conveys a strong sense of aversion or disgust. It is often used to describe a deep emotional response of loathing or abhorrence, typically in the context of a person feeling repulsed by something or someone. This term can also imply a sense of weariness or being fed up with a situation.

He loved us first, and that is why and how we love (knowing we've already received mercy). Christ's love is not simply charity but a) it's passing-forward Christ's love, and b) it's to relieve other's burdens (mercy, not sacrifice):

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Acts 2:45 - And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:4 - But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. (NASB)

I Corinthians 13:7 - Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

I Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

John 13:35 - By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

I John 2:15-29 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore

we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

I John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

I Timothy 2:3-4 - This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (ESV)

We want others to come to the truth:

Acts 26:29 - And Paul said, Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains. (ESV)

Quote from Mari Mari Emmanuel So fear nothing, love everyone, but be firm when it comes to speaking the truth. Truth cannot be compromised. ... The one who is all love, He was sharper than a sword; When it came to holding the Truth, fighting for the Truth, He stood firm, never gave way, never compromised. Now that is love. If you truly love someone, wouldn't you want them to be living in the Truth? If you truly love the person, you will tell them, "This is right... This is wrong..."

youtube.com: The End of the Catholic Church Mar Mari Emmanuel {@MarMariEmmanuelChannel} @t
... Third one, Pergamos, where the church and the state became united as in the betrothal, matrimonial bond, just like husband and wife become one, the church and state government became one in Pergamos. And that was after the third Century. Heresy came out when Church united to government. Heresy came out. False teachings came out because of this unity. You have to be very careful who to unite to. Church is needs to be united to Christ and Christ only. We pray for the world but we have no part of the world, my beloved. For the world is darkness. The church is the light to this world.

Where church and state are in conflict, Christians must obey God:

Titus 3:1-2 - Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. (ESV)

Acts 5:27-29 - And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us. But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

If we stick to our convictions to keep a good conscience with God, and act in love:

I Peter 3:12-16 - For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (ESV)

Acts 24:16 - So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. (ESV)

Baptism saves as an appeal for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

I Peter 3:21 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (ESV)

Colossians 2:11-12 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (ESV)

Our hearts are circumcised in order for us to love God with all our heart and soul that we may live. So, yes, we must love God and continue to love God after the surgical operation that God does on our hearts in order that we may live:

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (ESV)

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:32 - For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:30-32 - Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

Colossians 2:11-14 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (ESV)

Listen youtube.com: Why Does the Bible Say Baptism Saves Us? {@desiringGod}

Romans 14:22 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. (ESV)

I'm not Roman Catholic, but I think we individually have a faith between ourself and God and we try to maintain a good conscience with God in this:

The issues with church and state seem to go both ways youtube.com: Proposed Law Seeks to Breach the Seal of Confession {Priest Reacts} {@FatherDavidMichael}

I'm staying out of the politics, but I think this prayer in the Cabinet meeting on <2025-02-26 Wed> is great. And I pray that God blesses this prayer in Jesus Christ's name:

Read whitehouse.gov: Remarks by President Trump Before Cabinet Meeting - The White House

dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com: First White House Cabinet Meeting Opens in Prayer - Daily Citizen

But Secretary Turner's prayer wasn't just constitutional, but also eloquent, elegant, personal and practical. May the Lord be merciful and answer such prayers.

I Timothy 2:1-4 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (ESV)

This man's prayer is really great. Amen:

youtube.com: President Trump Hosts First Cabinet Meeting, Feb. 26, 2025 {@WhiteHouse} @time: 2 m

Thank you Mr President, let's pray, "Father, we thank you for this awesome privilege, Father, to be in your presence.

God, thank you that you've allowed us to see this day.

The Bible says that your mercies are new every morning and, Father God, we give you the glory and the honor.

Lamentations 3:22-23 - The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (ESV)

Thank you God for president Trump, Father, for appointing us, Father God.

Romans 13:1-7 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. (ESV)

Thank you for anointing us to do this job, Father.

We pray you'll give the president, the vice president, wisdom, Father God, as they lead.

Father God, I pray for of our colleagues that are here around the table and in this room.

Lord God we pray that we would lead with a righteous clarity.

Father God, as we serve the people of this country in every prospective agency, every job that we have, Father we would humble ourselves before you and we would lead in the manner that you've called us to lead and to serve.

Father the Bible says that blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.

Psalms 33:12 - Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! (ESV)

Well, father we today honor you and in your rightful place, Father, thank you for giving us this opportunity to restore faith in this country and be a blessing to the people of America.

And, Lord God, today in our meeting we pray that you will be glorified in our conversation in Jesus name. Amen."

Amen.

On <2025-01-13 Mon> Monday, I woke up to a voice which said, "What is your faith in?"

I responded like this, "My faith is in the Word of God. Jesus Christ and His finished works is the cornerstone of my faith, and keeping and doing his commandments is the foundation of my faith. I obey Righteousness because I obey Jesus. I believe in the Truth because I believe in Jesus."

I didn't know but it turned out to be the last day of my sentence.

Watch youtube.com: FULL REMARKS: President Trump Speaks At White House Easter Prayer Service And Dinner {@ForbesBreakingNews}

This is so cool what is happening over in the USA. Praise God! I think my heart just softened a bit more towards Trump after seeing the sincerity in his eyes and voice and words and reverence for God, and I'm encouraged by what's happening at the White House these days. Listening to him confess (G3670 homologeo) elementary doctrine of Christ, and seeing his reverence for Father God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and for Jesus' words, and his faith in Jesus' atoning sacrifice and having witnessed that he has heard the cornerstone of the gospel of Jesus and how we are called to love as Jesus did, and seeing him give due reverence for the Lord and Trump still confessing his faith in God through Jesus, I'm convinced the man is a genuine Christian with a sincere faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. After listening to him and hearing what he had to say, and his belief in Jesus' atoning sacrifice, His death and resurrection, it eases so much anxiety I had. It's easy to despair when the world gets so dark because there's not a lot of light in it. Jesus is the light of the world and Christ's disciples are also the light of the world. Gotta keep that light shining.

Proverbs 29:18 - Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law. (ESV)

I believe that God uses imperfect people such as Donald Trump.

Before I got born-again of the spirit in 2021, I was neck-deep in AI fiction research and was using OpenAI, but I have turned my back on that stuff now after Jesus made me born-again, and are focusing on genuinely keeping Jesus' commandments, and I don't think pursuing AI fits in with that vision at all.

I don't see anything wrong inherently with "Imaginary Programming", as I'd called it, as I was only using the existing models that were out there to run my prompts. I was designing prompts, and I was trying to be responsible and not use the AI systems to do bad things.

Sure, a person could do evil using prompting, and also the models themselves could be made in an unlawful manner. I think spreading AI fiction everywhere would be very irresponsible.

Imaginary Programming was essentially using LLMs in place of programming tools such as interpreter/compiler/linter so that a person could program the computer more abstractly at the user's conceptual level.

But after getting born-again several things became apparent:

- I needed to drop everything I was doing to focus on Jesus. Being born-again of the spirit, it was right to focus on God and not on the AI stuff. Obviously, I want other people to be saved as well, so I wouldn't want to brush it under the rug/shrug it off
- I needed more humility. I was feeling quite prideful, and sometimes we just have to decrease

– **John 3:28-31** - You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him. The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all.

- Not everyone doing the AI research and working on the AI technology was God-fearing, nor law-abiding and pulling out was intuitively the right thing to do in order to be good influencer, I think
- The AI fiction stuff was spreading like cancer
- More moral/ethical issues with how people might use the AI stuff
- How to put it? Feeling like I woke up in Hades and just don't want to be here. I want to be on the side of the God-fearing, God-loving people, rather than with the world
 - **Acts 2:40** - And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked generation. (ESV)
- I began receiving extreme amounts of satanic harassment, and needed to focus on Jesus, faith in and obedience to Jesus, getting to know Jesus. There's simply more important things in this life. Christ is our life
 - **Mark 8:35-36** - For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (KJV)

However, pursuing God through relationship with Jesus is my new focus:

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}
 And God, **the Father of the universe, who is the perfect intelligence, is the truth.** And the Word, being His Son, came to us, having put on flesh, revealing both Himself and the Father, giving to us in Himself resurrection from the dead, and eternal life afterwards.

youtube.com: We Are Reaching The End Folks! More Proof The World Is Nose Diving Into Bible Prophecy

I don't want to get into legit into the logistics of like whether I believe Trump is saved or not.

I really think that that is just besides the point or beside the point. I truly just sense in my spirit that Trump or that God allowed Trump into office for a second term simply to push us to Bible prophecy.

Um, I know that he does a lot of like outlandish things. Um, and so you know you can't really like judge his heart at the end of the day cuz like we don't know him. But on the flip side I do think that there are questionable things that are happening.

Um, I do not think that Trump is the Antichrist.

Um, I think a lot of people on the flip side too, like really are just idolizing Trump. And I'm not saying like I've always I don't think like I don't know. I just think some people need to take a step back some and stop idolizing him so much and just like understand that he is just put in place to get us where we need to go.

Does that make sense? And again, like I think a lot of people just idolize him too much and put him on this pedestal when you just need to be careful and like keep your eyes on Christ because the only savior is Jesus. Like that's it. He is the only savior that we need to be looking towards.

We gotta keep the commandments of Christ, have faith in God, have faith in Jesus and love one another as He commanded. There's no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, even for infants in Christ. It's so good to have Christian leadership in the US, and I'm glad that Trump is also fellowshiping and listening to Christians who are strong in their faith, and I'm glad that JD Vance is in office, and also I'm happy that Roman Catholicism is being represented alongside Protestantism. If I was a US citizen then Trump would have my vote. As for the big political and economic turbulence, it's to be expected I, think, for the big changes of policy in the White House and a concerted effort to turn away from ungodliness and back towards promoting faith in God through Jesus Christ. We walk by faith in God, trusting God and not sight! We gotta put God first, we gotta treasure God, love and treasure Jesus before anything or anyone else and build our lives on the rock on the foundation of Christ and His commandments. Can't let our foundations be compromised or the whole thing will rot. Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life. Praise God.

Catholics are really good at musical praise and worship, and it's amazing to behold. The anointing is strong with this one:

[youtube.com: I Am The Bread of Life { Praise Nation & Blessed Trinity Choir} @praisenationpgn {@pr](#)

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall not hunger; he who believes in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father draw him.

And I will raise him up, and I will raise him up, and I will raise him up on the last day.

[youtube.com: Jesus Lover of My Soul {Live at UPPERROOM} | Awakening Music feat. Daniel Hagen {](#)

Jesus, lover of my soul; Jesus, I will never let You go; You've taken me from the miry clay; You've set my feet upon the rock; And now I know;

I love you (I love you); I need you (I need you); **Though my world may fall (though my world may fall)**; I'll never let You go;

My Savior (my Savior); My closest Friend; I will worship You (I will worship You until the very end);

I Corinthians 3:11-15 - For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (ESV)

The Genesis creation story has spiritual significance and seems to be abstract in the way that I was born-again of the Spirit and becoming a new creation in Christ seems abstract as the Genesis creation story seems abstract, but nonetheless true. I am emphasising the spiritual reality of the Genesis story while not discounting at all a literal interpretation of Genesis such as the 7 day account of creation and rest.

- Genesis, creation and rest, 1 set of 7 days (abstract)
- Mosaic law (Deuteronomy, Leviticus), weekly (not abstract - literal)
 - **Colossians 2:16-17** - Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (ESV)
- New creation in Christ (abstract)
 - Born-again of the Spirit on 1 Nisan
 - Commandments such as these taken spiritually:
 - * **I Corinthians 9:8-11** - Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? (ESV)
 - * **Hebrews 4:8-11** - For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

3.1.1 New creation (kainē ktisis) - All things new

God is the Father of our spirits. God makes us born of the spirit:

Hebrews 12:9 - Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? (ESV)

Commenting on Sam Shamoun's video on the spiritual circumcision, which is highly relevant I've been watching your videos recently, and they have been very helpful in sharpening my theology.

Would you mind if I share my testimony of being born-again of the Spirit. I thought I would because you mentioned the new creation moment at the time of baptism, which is the only thing in this video I do not agree is strictly always the case.

My experience particularly after being born-again of the spirit certainly felt like being baptised into Jesus' death. All things have become new now. I wanted to share this part of my testimony with you because it shows that while a person is sealed with the Holy Spirit when they first trust in Christ, they may be born-of the Spirit (whatever happened to me) when God does it. And that makes sense because Jesus says:

John 3:8 - The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

I was baptised in 2005 (pretty confident it was, it may have been 2004) into the names Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Vanuatu by some nice people at a little church called Family Worship Center in Port Vila. But I began really seeking the Lord Jesus in 2021, and sought to repent from sin, and keep the 10 commandments from the heart because I lost confidence in my work and in the world and wanted to seek God authentically to give God a go. I'd seen too much hypocrisy with regards to people not loving one another or speaking the truth and being so disillusioned with all the hypocrisy, I earnestly endeavoured to seek God by trying to keep His commandments. I think God was putting faith in my heart and opening my eyes. Really, I was just trying to have real faith in God and be serious about His word and obey Him etc. This is totally in line with what Stephen says in Acts 7:51 - we have to not be resistant in our heart to God:

Acts 7:51 - You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (ESV)

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

I was born-again of the Spirit on the first day of Nisan on 2 April 2022. During the day in the afternoon I took a nap on my bed and woke up to observing my regenerated spirit man. It looked like a body made of blue light/electricity/fire with a dark bit around the bottom right of my rib cage. I'm unsure if that relates to Adam's rib taken or to the spear in Jesus' side. Anyway, in this state I called out to Jesus to save me because I didn't know what was going on, then I returned to observing the world through my physical body. To this day, I feel this spirit/fire/light energising my body/soul, so it's like being born-again with a second body literally.

It feels like the whole universe reproduced like a meiosis, and the Bible has really come alive etc. God put the fear of Him in me so I would not turn from Him.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion_of_Jesus According to the Gospel of Mark, he endured the torment of crucifixion from the third hour (between approximately 9 a.m. and noon), until his death at the ninth hour, corresponding to about 3 p.m. Shout out to Larry Sanger: youtube.com: How the Co-Founder of Wikipedia Found Christ {@SeanMcDowell}

For me, from my perspective, it felt as though all my relationships were reset after 2 April 2022. As we are reconciled to God, all things become new.

Indeed I was set free from sin on 2 April 2022 because I was baptised into Christ's death. I am extremely confident that that is what it is.

The flesh, the old self, was crucified. The body of sin will be brought to nothing.

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

I was regenerated. I was made a new creation. Now the body of sin must be brought to nothing, so there is a battle.

Yet I believe that sanctification is ongoing in some sense. The entire time I've been holding my faith in Jesus. Yet whatever happened in an attempt to corrupt me after getting born-again happened to me regardless of the fact that I was keeping my faith, and also trying to hold a good conscience with God. God gave me the fear of Him and a new spirit and then I had to become obedient to the standard of teaching which I'm called to become obedient to.

Romans 6:6-7 - We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:17 (Interlinear)

1	5620	1487	5100	1722	5547	2537	2937	[e]	3588
2	hōste	ei	tis	en	Christō	kainē	ktisis	ta	
3				X	,	.			
4	Therefore	if	anyone	[is]	in Christ	[he is]	a new creation	The	
5	Conj	Conj	IPro-NMS	Prep	N-DMS	Adj-NFS	N-NFS	Art-NNP	
6									
7	744	3928		2400	1096	[e]	2537		
8	archaia	parēlthen		idou	gegonen		kaina		
9		;		,		.			
10	old things	have passed away	behold	has come into being	[the] new				
11	Adj-NNP	V-AIA-3S		V-AMA-2S	V-RIA-3S		Adj-NNP		

Galatians 6:15 - For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. (ESV)

1	3777	1063	4061		5100	1510	3777	203	
2	oute	gar	peritomē		ti	estin	oute	akrobystia	
3				,		;			
4	Neither	for	circumcision	anything	is		nor	uncircumcision	
5	Conj	Conj	N-NFS		IPro-NNS	V-PIA-3S	Conj	N-NFS	
6									
7	235	2537	2937						
8	alla	kainē	ktisis						
9			.						
10	instead	a new	creation						
11	Conj	Adj-NFS	N-NFS						

II Corinthians 5:16-21 - From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

Being made new continues:

II Corinthians 4:16 - So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, **our inner nature is being renewed day by day.** (ESV)

People were being born according to the Spirit for quite some time before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary but it has been restricted to the children of promise i.e. Abraham's descendants through Isaac:

Galatians 4:28-31 - Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But **just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.** But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

God washes us (regenerates us) and makes our spirits new. Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit:

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

Acts 11:16-17 - And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way? (ESV)

John 13:7-11 - Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! Jesus said to him, The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you. For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, Not all of you are clean. (ESV)

And the Holy Spirit dwells within us:

II Timothy 1:14 - By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. (ESV)

So God makes us born-again of the spirit through promise. This promise goes to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. God sends Jesus' spirit to live in us. So is this one and the same event, being born-again of the spirit and having the spirit of Jesus Christ dwell in us? So I wonder, Isaac being a child of promise, born according to the spirit, did the spirit of Jesus Christ live inside him, or is being born-again of the spirit and receiving the spirit of Jesus Christ two different things?

At this stage, how I would word this is I would say that I have a regenerated spirit, and even with a regenerated spirit, willful disobedience to God is defiling, sin is defiling, so even after being regenerated, it's correct to continue, loving others, especially family in Christ, and forgiving others, and forsaking sinful habits, and being renewed in mind, and endeavour to please God with our thoughts and actions, learning about God's will for us and putting it into practice:

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

And Holy Spirit is the one Who washes us, teaches us, interprets the Scripture for us. Jesus washes us, teaches us reminds us of His words with Holy Spirit as we obey the Truth, as we have faith in Jesus Christ, trusting and obeying Him. And God comes to live in us:

John 14:23 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (ESV)

Romans 8:8-11 - Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (ESV)

John 16:7 - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (ESV)

OK, so God's spirit lives in us and there is some kind of distinction between God's Spirit and our spirit. So that is a little more evidence to me to suggest that being born-again of the Spirit, the regeneration of our spirit may very well easily been going on for

Romans 8:16-18 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (ESV)

Proverbs 20:27 - The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts. (ESV)

This explanation seems correct:

youtube.com: The difference between being born again and receiving the Holy kSpirit ? {@CWOWI}

Hey everybody, John Fen here, Church of Without Walls International, cwi.org. We are a house church network. We celebrate the gathering of saints in homes as they did in the early church for the first 300 years. And similarly, we take turns hosting, we take turns leading so that a core group of people who uh become used to hosting and leading. And when you outgrow a house, you just multiply out because you have a core group of people who've been used to hosting and leading. So, it's very easy and to multiply out. And that's what happened in the early church from 120 people on the day of Pentecost to saturating the Roman Empire in under 300 years. Check it out. cwi.org. All right. Today, I'm following up on what happens when you're born again. A lot of people think, you know, I'm born again. I've got the Holy Spirit, right? And there is a lot of uh incorrect teaching out there. And I want to share today what Jesus actually said, what the apostles said, what scripture says, what was believed in the early church. All right. First off, people point to uh to John chapter 20 and verses 21-22 where Jesus at his resurrection breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." And so people say, see right there, you know, they believed on him because the core elements are that you must believe that Jesus is the Lord is God's son. That he was crucified, that he was raised from the dead. Romans 10:es 9 and 10. Believe in your heart and confess

with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, you'll be saved. This was the born again experience. He he gave them the he said breathed on them and and he said receive the Holy Spirit. And people say, "I've got the Holy Spirit." Well, what what what happened then? Jesus does not contradict himself. And so we go to Acts chapter 1 and from verse three on it says that he showed himself alive with many infallible proofs. Acts 1:3 and and he said he showed himself alive for 40 days with many infallible proofs. And he said this to them in in uh verses four and 5. He said, he said, "Wait in the city for the promise from the father, for you will be baptized with the holy spirit not many days from now." And in verse 8, he said, "You will receive power when the holy spirit has come upon you." So Jesus doesn't contradict himself. So, how would he say in John chapter 20 at his resurrection when they believed on him and said receive the Holy Spirit and then turn around 40 days later and say you'll receive power when you get the Holy Spirit when you receive the Holy Spirit and wait for the promise for you'll be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence. So Jesus doesn't contradict himself. It is clear that when he said breathed on them and said received the Holy Spirit at his resurrection, that is the born again experience. So in my little illustration here today, this is like the unborn spirit. You may not think of it this way, but people who don't know the Lord are still eternal. They still have eternal life, but they don't have God's eternal life. Okay? We're everybody's in eternity. You belong to one kingdom or the other. The kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of light. So this is so this is a person before they're born again. So Jesus breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit and boom, their spirit man was born again. Ephesians 5:8 says you were before times darkness but now are you light. And so here's their brand new spirit now created by the Holy Spirit. You would say okay this is a glass glass. This is a glass made of glass. Obviously it's glass. It's a person's spirit is recreated by the spirit. They go from their normal human spirit to old things that passed away and now all things have become new. Their new new spirit is is made of the Holy Spirit of the of the uh nature of God recreated by the spirit. You know Jesus told Nicodemus in John chapter 3 he said you must be born again. You must be born of the spirit. And so when the when Jesus was res resurrected from the dead, they believed on him and he said receive the Holy Spirit. Their spirits became brand new. So you receive when you believe you receive the Holy Spirit to the recreation of your spirit. All right? That's what happens. I shared last week how in Luke chapter uh 5 37 38 Jesus said you have to make the the wine skin new before you add the new wine. So here's the new wine skin and here's the new wine which represents the Holy Spirit. And so now the Holy Spirit is in a person. This is what happens when a person receives the baptism with the Holy Spirit. So they have the first encounter with the Holy Spirit which is that they believe and then when they receive the Holy Spirit like Jesus said you'll receive the Holy Spirit and you'll receive power when you're baptized with the Holy Spirit. And so this understanding is what Peter, James, John, Paul, Jude, all of them had. In fact, the whole of the New Testament was written by charismatic Christians, apostles who were charismatic, writing to people who were charismatic. You say, "How do you know that?" Well, for to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 12, 13- 14 is all about the gifts of the spirit. In Galatians chapter 3, Paul asks them, he says, "When God does miracles among you, does he do it by the spirit or does he do it by the hearing of the Mosaic law?" In Ephesians chapter 5:es 18, 19, and 20, Paul says, you know, you can be filled with the spirit by singing, making melody in your heart, you know, singing spiritual songs. Jude in verse 20 said, "Build yourself up on your most holy faith, praying in the spirit," praying in tongues, in other words, praying in the Holy Spirit, which was the phrase then. So we have throughout this you've got to realize that people were baptized with the Holy Spirit. We go to to Acts chapter 8 and verses 3-1 17 and it says that Philip went down and preached Christ to to those in Samaria which is the area north of Jerusalem. And it says when they believed they were baptized both men and women and then Peter and John came down from Jerusalem and it says they laid hands on them that they had received the Holy Spirit. In fact, verse uh 15 says uh says that they had not yet received the Holy Spirit only they believed and were baptized. So that's Acts chapter 8. So what we have here is the fact that that these people were born again when Philip was preaching to them. They were born again. Their spirits were recreated. They went from this to being brand new, born again in Christ. But Peter and John came so that they could receive the Holy Spirit. And that's what happened on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. They were born again, but on the day of Pentecost, they received the Holy Spirit. All right? So, that's what happens to a person.

3.1.2 Repentance from sin after being born of the Spirit

It's very clear that even after God's spirit comes to dwell within a person, we must not defile ourselves through committing sin. And it's also clear that everyone who hope in Jesus Christ, purifies themselves as He is pure.

It's also clear if we are abiding in Jesus, keeping His commandments, then we will not make a practice of sinning, so we should definitely be abiding in Jesus, keeping His commandments.

To put this concisely, I think that we get born of the spirit and then use the spirit to put sin to death, and when we see Him we will be like Him.

We should definitely avoid committing sin after we are born-again. Rather, we purify ourselves as we hope in Him (we will get to see Jesus as He is):

I John 3:2-7 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:16-17 - Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:18-20 - Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

We should be keeping Jesus' commandments to abide in Him and live:

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live**. But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, You go, and do likewise. (ESV)

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, **he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

I guess I could take a page from Justin Martyr and the Apostle John. According to Justin Martyr, we need to have come to "know" Jesus, and according to the Apostle John, that means we need to have put a stop to willful sin to have arrived at rest in Him. So we find rest at the end of sanctification, or at some point in that process of sanctification where we stop committing wilful sin. That makes sense to me. I would agree that I am still in need or would desire to have further sanctification. I think it's quite a good thing to want to improve at loving people. That's what I want to do. But now I have confidence that the rest is on the horizon. All who hope in Him purify themselves. And during this sanctification process, we still get to call ourselves children of God:

I John 3:1-11 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

Justin Martyr says, "Wherefore those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him.":

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}
And God, the Father of the universe, who is the perfect intelligence, is the truth. And the Word, being His Son, came to us, having put on flesh, revealing both Himself and the Father, giving to us in Himself resurrection from the dead, and eternal life afterwards. And this is Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. He, therefore, is Himself both the faith and the proof of Himself and of all things. Wherefore **those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him.** But since the adversary does not cease to resist many, and uses many and divers arts to ensnare them, that he may *seduce the faithful from their faith, and that he may prevent the faithless from believing, it seems to me necessary that we also, being armed with the invulnerable doctrines of the faith, do battle against him in behalf of the weak.*

As I have repented to be corrected by the Word of God, agreeing with it and endeavoring to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it feels as though I have been rejecting lots and lots of heresies, and rejecting lots and lots of false religion, and I hope that this helps others also to be corrected. I have been trying to be corrected by obedience

to the Gospel of Jesus a lot since recording this 'dream' / conversation in my sleep. After actively trying to be obedient to the Truth (obedient to Jesus), corrected and believing the Truth (Jesus and His words, Scripture), I have come to distrust odd spirits which speak to me in my sleep, and I've been harassed by them even to this day <2025-05-31 Sat>, including an impostor of the Holy Spirit which never confesses the truth about Jesus. But the True Holy Spirit bears witness about Jesus

John 15:26 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **he will bear witness about me.** (ESV)

- Read ::biblehub.com spirit.htm: The Holy Spirit Bearing Witness to Jesus Christ.

I believe that among other things I have had to fight against, reject or repent from:

- a spirit of Mormonism
 - youtube.com: Mormon Religion in a nutshell - John MacArthur {@apologetics-jude1383}
 - Thanks, John MacArthur. Yeah, I do not affirm Mormonism at all.
 - youtube.com: Mormon Jesus vs Bible Jesus - Jeff Durbin {@apologetics-jude1383}
 - youtube.com: Dr. John MacArthur on Mormonism {@JmPizzle1}
- * According to Mormon theology, the Mormon couples that have been baptized in the temple in Salt Lake and have been faithful Mormons and done what you're supposed to do they get their own planet and they just make Gods with some kind of strange celestial sex forever and ever and ever - that part of it folks is very much like the 70 virgins that the jihadist terrorists think they're going to meet when they blow themselves up along with the infidels. This is a very, very pagan religious system.
- * different God, a different Christ a different gospel different Source material and you got a false religion.
- * Joseph Smith is a false prophet.
- a spirit of Islam
 - youtube.com: How Thomas Aquinas refuted Muhammad and Islam {@SanctusApologetics}
 - Summa Contra Gentiles of St. Thomas Aquinas
 - youtube.com: The Heresy of Islam | St. John of Damascus {@SanctusApologetics}
 - youtube.com: Distinctive Marks Of The Spirit Of The Antichrist {@DerekPrinceMinistries}
 - youtube.com: Muslim Sisters CONVERT to Christianity After HEARING the Bible | Sam Shamoun {@ShamounianExplains}
- a spirit of LGBT
- a spirit of Hinduism
 - youtube.com: The Antichrist of Hinduism {@PoliteLeader}
- a spirit of Gnosticism
- a spirit of New Age

- youtube.com: Demonically Oppressed to Divinely Saved, New Age to Jesus Testimony {@samkalawart}
- youtube.com: MY UK TESTIMONY: FROM DEMON-POSSESSED WITCH TO BEING SAVED BY OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST! {@Rosielostsheep}

I have also had to:

- be sanctified through obedience to the Truth, faith and the Spirit
 - **John 17:19** - And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)
 - **Acts 26:18** - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)
 - **I Peter 1:22** - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)
- get to know Jesus better through following His commandments
 - **I John 2:4** - Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)
- allow the LORD to build my house
 - **Psalms 127:1** - Unless the LORD (3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (ESV)
 - It means loving Jesus which involves obeying Jesus including His commandment to trust Him and His other commandments. Jesus is preparing the place for us. Like a bridegroom for their bride, Jesus is building an extension:
 - * **John 14:1-7** - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to **prepare a place for you?** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going. Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. (ESV)
 - * <https://israelmyglory.org/article/coming-for-his-bride/>
 - A local onlooker told us both families had arranged the marriage and that the couple had an unnecessarily long, drawn-out betrothal. According to ancient Jewish marriage custom, the man uses the betrothal period to prepare a home for his bride and himself in his father's house. The bystander told us the lazy bridegroom had needlessly delayed the marriage by procrastinating his building of an extension to his parents' house.

I appreciated Bryce's testimony here as he also had to turn away from false religion to follow Jesus:

youtube.com: Bryce Crawford's testimony: Sharing Jesus With An Atheist! {@thebrycecrawford}
 So there was a night I was going to take my life - it was on Christmas of 2020 - and I went to go have my last meal and I had a supernatural encounter with Jesus - not religion - Jesus Christ I had a supernatural encounter with. Right before, a few months before, I had actually looked into all these other religions cuz

like you said, you were like, "Oh, any sort of faith provides good structure and that's what I had heard all my life. So I was like, "Man, if I just believe in something, maybe it will get me out of this depression pit." So I was looking at Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age, like everything on the planet. And when I was looking at these things, like in Islam, for example, you have like the five pillars of Islam, basically. You got to pray five times a day, give alms to the poor, and the goal is to be a good person. When you die, Allah is going to weigh your good and your bad, and if you did more good than bad you're good but if you did more bad than good, not good.

And then I was like, "Well, it doesn't say how much is enough, so how do I know if by the time I'm dead if I did enough? And then, you know, Buddhism and Hinduism, they've got thousands of gods and you're trying to get enlightened and not get bad karma cuz then you might get reincarnated into something bad. And so I was like looking at all these religions and I felt hopeless because I thought, "I have a hole in my heart. And if I'm a broken human being - you know how wicked this world is - and [with] a broken heart - I couldn't even heal the broken heart with the broken world." So I was like, "If I live in a broken world with a broken heart how could I ever work to perfection?"

It seemed impossible, and I knew I couldn't do it, so I was ready to take my life that night in Waffle House and I had this Supernatural Encounter With Jesus. I realized, man, I'm not following religion. I mean, yes, like Christianity is like a labeled religion but I'm not following structured religion, I'm following Jesus. I'm putting my faith and trust in him.

Apostle Paul exhorts us to pursue the knowledge of Christ Jesus as Paul also does:

Philippians 3:7-17 - But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may **know him and the power of his resurrection**, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, **join in imitating me**, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. (ESV)

G3671 homologia Definition: Confession, profession, acknowledgment

Hebrews 10:23-25 - Let us hold fast the confession (G3671 homologia) of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)

With all respect to Stan, and I agree with Him in that we need to put our faith in Jesus first and foremost and not mere man, I also think we must obey Jesus first and foremost and not mere man. God made me born of His Spirit completely outside the Roman Catholic church, and I have a relationship with Father God, mediated by Jesus Christ. I'm not totally against religion but relationship with Jesus comes first. We need direct relationship with Christ.

youtube.com: The Irish Blessing - over 300 churches from our island sing a blessing over Ireland and beyond
Christ be with you; Christ within you; Christ behind you; Christ before you; Christ beside you; Christ to win you; Christ to comfort and restore you; Christ beneath you; Christ above you; Christ in quiet; Christ in danger; Christ in hearts of all that love you; Christ in mouth of friend and stranger; AMEN!!; AMEN!!

We need to be doing Father God's will from a faithful and obedient heart. Also, I think that Jesus' ongoing work does save and His ongoing work is based on His prior work.

II John 1:8-9 - Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

We must become obedient to the will of Father God in heaven. We are saved to serve God, amen.

I still think that we can experience the Kingdom of God on earth, doing God's will, but the kingdom of heaven is not an earthly kingdom. It's a spiritual kingdom, and those who are in it are servants of Christ. And I believe that heaven is a separate place to earth.

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

Mark 8:34-38,9:1 - And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, **If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.** For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, **there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.** (ESV)

At 1 min 15 seconds:

web.sermonaudio.com: BAR-2014-03 - Life of Paul - Part 3 (At 1 min 15 seconds): Matthew 7:21

- Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

By the way, some people say, well, the Kingdom of Heaven, that's for the Jews. But what's interesting is Jesus uses those terms, and so does Daniel and others, synonymously. **Kingdom of God / Kingdom of Heaven** is talking about where we're all wanting to go. It's not talking about living in a perfect, you know, Earth for the Jews someday, somewhere, or something.

So it's not those who say the right words, Lord, Lord, that will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. But, Jesus said in verse 21, ""he who does the will of my father in heaven". Jesus said salvation is when you come to the point that you want to do the will of another. Do you know what a slave is? We have all this history in America of the tragic slave trade and everything that went on and all that's happened in our culture since then. Do you know what a slave is? A person that does the will of another. They have to do what someone else wants them to do. They're a slave. Do you know what God says the inhabitants of heaven will be? Bond slaves of God. That's the only people that are going to heaven. that have, by God's grace, done what... Jesus, by the way, is the one... He's the door of heaven. If anybody can talk about who's coming through the door... I mean, more than Paul and Peter and everybody else. But they, by the way, all say the same thing. Praise the Lord. But Jesus, the door, says, it's not you saying the right words, but it's whether or not you do the will of my Father in heaven.

Those are the four worst words anybody will ever hear in eternity. But it gets from there downhill, depart from me, you, who practice lawlessness. And that leads to a theological phrase that some have used, that if you've never been saved from sin, you've never been saved from hell.

...

Jesus said salvation is a breaking of the pattern of practicing, verse 23, lawlessness. See, for a believer, we're not sinless. We sin. We are so far short of the glory of God, God says even the ploughing of the wicked is sin to Him. I mean you can't even plough in a righteous way without His grace and mercy and his marvelous work. But, in a believer the hold, the power, the overwhelming desire for sin is broken. The connection.

The non-stop pipeline of sin is severed. Now it dribbles out. You ever seen, you know, like a pipeline spill? You know, or what happened in LA, the water line breaks, and it's broken, but the Lord doesn't say we're sinless, but he says we do not practice. It's not our heart's desire to be lawless. We want to submit to him.

...

What is it we're supposed to do to be saved? And look what Peter says. And Peter said to them, repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is, first of all, coming to Christ away from religion.

...

There are a lot of people that you ask them when they got saved and they said, I joined the church in, or I went forward in, and it's always I did something. And I always listen to that and I say, yep, I did something too. I called the name of the Lord. But it's Christ that saved me. I didn't do anything. All I did is respond and He transformed me. There has to be a human response. What must I do? Believe. What must I do? Repent. What must I do? Call. So I must do something. But the saving is done by God, not by me.

...

They think that you have to straighten out your life to get saved. That's not ever what the Bible says. Do you know what the Bible says? I'll put it in common terms. You catch the fish, then you clean them. Do you think about that? People get caught by the Lord, then he cleans them. You don't get cleaned up to come to the Lord. You come to the Lord dirty, hopelessly, helplessly lost.

Acts 16:30-34 - Then he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. (ESV)

We must have faith in Jesus to be justified by faith. I believe the finished work of Christ is enough, but that God is still working, His grace extending through faithful obedience to Jesus, Jesus grace reaches more people:

II Corinthians 4:11-15 - For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, I believed, and so I spoke, we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. (ESV)

I affirm that the only way is through Jesus. But I don't believe in subtracting Jesus' teachings or His ongoing work from Jesus when we talk about Him or refer to having faith in Him. Nevertheless, without the work of Christ in His passion, death and resurrection, there'd be no reconciliation to Father God. Nevertheless, I think Stan has valid concerns here but just want to make out that this is not a call to disobedience to Jesus, but we are saved by grace through faith and become obedient to Christ. We want relationship with God through Jesus Christ, through faith in Him and in His Word, in obedience to Christ and His teachings.

[youtube.com: The world REALLY NEEDS JESUS!!! — NOT religion!!! {@HanginOutWithStan}](https://www.youtube.com/@HanginOutWithStan)

Nothing and nobody but Jesus Christ and the work that he finished on earth can save a single person. There's no other way. Only Jesus saves. Only Jesus. Years ago, the Holy Spirit awakened me to the fact that religion that I had been re raised in was corrupt. I left that religion and I never looked back. I don't think I've been in a Baptist church since I left.

I can't recall it if I have. I've been into some non-denominational churches, all of which pretty much didn't teach the truth either.

My relationship now is based firmly and solely on the teachings of God's Holy inspired word, the Holy Bible.

He didn't put that book together for us just to have something to do, He put it there as a way for us to know the truth and to be saved so that the truth could set us free.

I am tutored by the Holy Spirit. Any of you who have listened to more than two or three of my videos knows that. I implore you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to be your tutor also.

He will and your eyes will be opened to the truth inside God's Holy Word. Don't put your faith and trust in a [mere] man. Put all your faith and all your trust in Jesus Christ and His Holy Word.

Regarding not neglecting to meet together, I believe that church is meeting together as followers of Jesus, and that happens inside and outside the walls of the church building.

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Quote from Mari Mari Emmanuel Buddhist monks, you ask, why are you leaving the world and living in absolute isolation? They'll tell you we are trying frantically to achieve what one thing. To kill the human desire, because when we are able to kill the human desire we are in control.

Why do you become enslaved to something? Because of your desire if you did not desire this thing you wouldn't have been so weak when you faced it. True.

When you desire money money becomes your God you start worshiping money when you desire fame fame becomes your God.

But they have failed to realize this truth: They can never kill desire. You know why? Because the one who put desire in the human being is God and what God gives no one can take away. God put desire in us so we can desire Him in order to worship Him. Without desire, there is no worship.

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

In my view it doesn't seem as though the Roman Catholic church are not Christians, as some people say, but know very little about Roman Catholicism. Their doctrine is different from the Reformists, but they are judged by the doctrine they affirm, and by Jesus Christ's words.

Matthew 12:36-37 - I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (ESV)

I found it fascinating and encouraging today (Pentecost Sunday) to hear this testimony of an encounter with God from Joelle Maryn who is a Roman Catholic:

youtube.com: Joelle Maryn's Catholic Awakening {@KeithNester} @time: 16 min 21 sec Someone who

I loved very much just said to me bad things about the Catholic church, and I didn't have a strong catechesis or education, you know, I knew, OK, Jesus loves you. But they were like, oh, it's so political, it's all about power. I didn't have an answer. They made me feel really bad about the faith and like there was something bad and wrong with it and like as if I was deceived, and I just apologised, and just kinda fell away and bought the lie. So you had this moment where you, like, OK, well maybe the Catholic church is wrong. Did you think about becoming a different kind of Christian, or like becoming a protestant or something or did you just say, that's just God, I'm just done with this. Yeah, I mean I still sometimes would like go to Times Square. There'd be like a non-denominational Christian church, but I don't know what denomination it was. Yeah, I mean there was like no crucifix anywhere, no image (picture) of God and you know, but I have a lot of friends who are like Protestant too, so I know that the Holy Spirit's in other churches but I just didn't understand the beauty of our faith and the sacraments. How long did that last? About 12 years.

[youtube.com: Joelle Maryn's Catholic Awakening {@KeithNester}](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJNzvXWVQHc) @time: 24 min 41 sec Like I said,

I hit a spiritual rock-bottom and there was nowhere to go but up. Well the illumination of conscience, first of all, Scriptures tells us that we're all going to have to make an account for what we did or didn't do in this life and we are judged on love. It's in the catechism, it's in the Bible. We're told that we get this at our death and at the second-coming of Jesus if we're here at that time, so we're all going to get this, and that's why you've probably heard of a lot of people having it like on an operating table, this near-death experience, but I was wide-aware. So this was kind-of a supernatural, mystical experience I was not expecting, and I believe, I'd spoken to some other people that've had it happen and it's shown in different ways to everybody, so I think according to your personality or how God wants to show you your soul, but for me it was shown in columns. I was shown immediately, like a left column, and my left column had all my sins in it, so my life flashed before my eyes. I saw all of my sins. I didn't even know that I was in sin. So this was shocking because I thought I had a 'free' ticket to heaven. Here I'm thinking that I'm a great person, and I'm literally watching in the light of God in His presence, not seeing him but like an illumination of my soul, that I know.

We've got to make a distinction between thoughts the enemy puts in a person's head (Satan also tried to tempt Jesus, and there was a messenger from Satan going to Paul) and God's voice:

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

I Corinthians 4:5 - Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, **who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.** Then each one will receive his commendation from God. (ESV)

In confessing sin as sin, the law is in our heart.

If it's in our heart then it has to be a love for the truth. So when we confess sin as sin, we agape-love, treasure the truth.

I would never confess, for example, that gay-marriage is good and that marriage proposal to someone who is of eligible age is evil in and of itself. We have to agree with and agape love the truth so that we can be sanctified by the truth.

So long as I hate sin, (and I do hate sin) and agree with God, even if I still "have" sin (I John 1:6-10), I think I'm still in a position of blamelessness.

This blamelessness involves approving of what is right/excellent. So if we still have issues, but confess our sin, and we know what is right, and know we still need God's grace and are still holding to our confession of faith in Jesus (and I am still holding to it), and haven't turned away from Jesus, I think we might still be in a position of blamelessness. I think it's looks like a transformed life, transformed into Christ's love, keep His commandments, and agreeing with God and walking in the light, walking in the love of the truth, and as we do that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. So there's justification first which is the breastplate of faith and love, loving the truth, and there is sanctification which is being cleaned up:

Philippians 1:9-11 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may **approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ**, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:9-11 - And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may **approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;** Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. (KJV)

Journal <2025-08-09 Sat> I don't know what has been attacking my soul trying to tempt and arouse me, and fill my mind with adulterous, sexually immoral, lying antichrist dreams and visions, but I ask God that He would destroy it so that it doesn't affect me anymore. If God needs to send it to hell forever in order that the defilement no longer affects me, that's OK.

We should walk in an agape love of the truth, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. So we confess sin as sin, and confess when we have done sin, love God's precepts, and we hate sin and we love one another and love Jesus Christ, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (we are sanctified). Our consciences are purified to serve God:

I John 1:6-10 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who **confesses and forsakes** them will obtain mercy. (ESV)

The wrath of God still comes on people who are not repentant from sin, who do not turn from their wickedness and don't have the fear of God, who don't have true faith God, who don't have the fear of God and a love for the truth, but who still love their sin. People born-again of Spirit absolutely must be repentant, and not be suppressing the truth of God, and must agape love the truth, and agape love the children of God:

Romans 1:17-18 - For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. (engbsb2020eb)

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly (G1169 deilós), the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (ESV)

If we confess sin as sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And in confessing our sin to one another, we who are in Christ have our souls sanctified. So continuing on in Christ, we are still walking in the truth, in the light, in the love of the truth.

Hebrews 8:10-13 - For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more. In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Proverbs 20:27 - The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts. (ESV)

We must not only confess sin but forsake it, as in, not continue committing it. Jesus' blood washes our sins away, grants a clean conscience and takes the power of it away which helps us to not sin anymore. And we need to not go back to committing it again:

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. (ESV)

I love doing good works, etc., love striving to be obedient to Jesus in all things commanded of me. I love living in faith in Jesus Christ with the fear of God, living as though He exists, knowing God's wrath will come upon the wicked, and instead choosing to live with a clean conscience seeking to serve Jesus. That's what I believe a purified conscience looks like:

Hebrews 9:13-14 - For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

Titus 1:13-16 - This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

Titus 2:1-8 - But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. (ESV)

It's true that we have to agape love God and our family in Christ. But we know that He loved us first:

I John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

Watch youtube.com: DEBATE Catholic Truth vs NeedGodnet {Part 2 - Catholic Debate } {@CatholicTruthOfficial}

I affirm what Bryce said here:

youtube.com: Preaching At ASU With Cliffe Knecthle! {@thebrycecrawford} @time: 8 min 11 sec

Question: I have friends that are like Roman Catholic, Orthodox, like all different types of denominations. Did Jesus establish one church and like what are your thoughts on that?

Bryce's answer: I have Catholic friends that are going to heaven. I have Orthodox friends that are going to Heaven, Baptist friends that are going to heaven. I'm non-denominational. I also have Catholic friends that are not going to heaven. I have Orthodox friends that aren't going to heaven. It's not about which way the tree blows in the wind, it's if it bears fruit or not. Okay? So what is the fruit? A lot of these denominations have secondary issues that they disagree on and that's why they're denominations, but is it a Bible believing church? Do they preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, that He lived a sinless life, he was born of a virgin, he died on the cross and resurrected on the third day? I think there's crucial things that are very crucial to the doctrine of Christianity that we say, man if this church is missing one of these things, that's a no-no for me. But if this church I maybe some secondary issues that don't matter about salvation but man do they really preach the core principles that are true.

So sometimes people believe different things about secondary issues, whatever. But if the core beliefs of Christianity (Triune God, Jesus Christ is both man, 100% man 100% God, He live a sinless life, died on the cross, resurrected, we can have salvation in Him, we're saved by grace through faith. All these basic things if that church preaches it, praise God.

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)

I agree with @CatholicTruthOfficial here:

youtube.com: Catholics Serving Jesus without Jesus {@CatholicTruthOfficial} We first need to have a relationship with Christ and it changes us from the inside out. From there we know who we are, we know our identity, we know what he wants, we know our calling, and then we go out and serve in the way that he wants us to, not the other way around. We don't just start serving. Many people serve but they don't have a relationship with Christ. How can you serve Christ if you don't have a relationship with him? So the relationship comes first then the identity and who we are and then serving him in love.

But also I agree with John Piper here:

youtube.com: Become Who You Are {@desiringGod} May the Lord grant you to be so renewed in your minds that you will serve him with your mind and not despair when the flesh gets the upper hand but will repent and look away from yourselves and Trust in the finished work of Jesus and his ongoing labors on your behalf. And all the people said Amen.

I Corinthians 5:7 - Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (ESV)

In providing what I hope is constructive 'criticism' here I'm not really trying to criticise but rather trying to be corrected by the Word and strengthen my brothers/family in Christ:

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

We should take ear to Christ's commandments, and we should not suppress discussion of and obedience to Christ's words and commandments:

Proverbs 28:9 - If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (ESV)

I have certainly needed correction, and Holy Spirit to help me:

youtube.com: EUCHaRIST_ Early Church Interpretation_ Sam Shamoun {@ApologeticsCut-ec2bp} @
Everyone is biased there is no neutral person who comes to Scripture neutrally. None, nada. None. We all read, see, view, interpret things from a set of assumptions, presuppositions that we've inherited. ... So, because of that it will skew our sense of reality. The work of the Holy Spirit, the work of the Holy Spirit is to sanctify our hearts, our minds, our perception, our understanding and our will so that the spirit convicts us to see things from His perspective because God is ultimate reality. He **is** reality, He is Truth, He sees things as they are in reality. The work of the Holy Spirit is to transform us to see it through God's eyes and to enable us to be aware of our biases that skew our ability to see something clearly and to repent of it. That's the work of the Holy Spirit.

In this instance I think @CatholicTruthOfficial is speaking from the flesh and Matt Mason is speaking the truth
youtube.com: Answering an Ex-Catholic! {Debunking Lion of Fire Raw} {@CatholicTruthOfficial}

What Ryan is saying here sounds correct to me. I think he's speaking from the Spirit here, not the flesh
youtube.com: THIS Is What NeedGod.net Thinks About Calvinism & Free Will! {@NeedGodnet}

However, I have to agree with Leighton here:

youtube.com: Why Calvinism Fails | Leighton Flowers | Soteriology 101 {@Soteriology101} @time: 19 minutes
Because the two times that Paul uses the term predestination in chapter 8 (Romans 8) and in Ephesians 1 are both about God predestining people to become conformed in the image of his Son and predestining people to become holy and blameless, which is exactly the same thing, it's synonymous. Becoming holy

and blameless is the same as being conformed to the image of his Son. It doesn't say he's conforming he's predestining certain people to become believers, it says predestined believers to become like Jesus. He's predestined believers, those who are in Christ, to become holy and blameless.

Hebrews 2:11-12 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise. (ESV)

Romans 8:29-30 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:3-10 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (ESV)

I do indeed believe that we are allowed to read the Word of God for ourselves, and have our own relationship with Jesus, where we are trusting His word and acting out of obedience to it.

And I believe that is part of God's gift to us, to be able to be in a relationship where we believe in something God has said, and then act on that basis - there should be unity between believers, but we're going to have our own individual journeys and personal relationship with God.

So I would say that the common foundation between Protestants and Catholics is faith in Jesus Christ Himself, including faith in Jesus Christ's words, and Jesus has purchased the redemption, and God justifies the one who puts their faith in Jesus, and it's God who tests the heart.

I was watching this video yesterday on <2025-05-01 Thu> about an artwork, en.wikipedia.org: The Am

One of the loot strings appears broken and curled, and one of the flutes is missing from the case. These instruments are typically symbols of harmony, but in this context, Holine conveys the opposite, the loss of harmony during the ecclesiastical crisis of the reformation. Below that we come across a coral book, specifically a Lutheran hymnal written in German. This hymnal was also real, but in the original the two pages shown in the painting are not placed consecutively. Holine deliberately chose and arranged them this way. The left page features Martin Luther's hymn, 'Come Holy Spirit', while the right page displays the shortened version of the Ten Commandments also by Luther. This can be interpreted as a plea for reconciliation, but it could also reflect Georges's desire to heal the religious divide, highlighting the idea that the Ten Commandments were something that united both Catholics and Protestants.

We should certainly be allowed to have faith in Jesus' words:

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}

The word of truth is free, and carries its own authority, disdaining to fall under any skilful argument, or to entrap any man. But it would be **believed for its own nobility**, and for the confidence due to Him who sends it. Now the word of truth is sent from God; wherefore the freedom claimed by the truth is *not arrogant*. For **being sent with authority, it were not fit that it should be required to produce proof of what is said**; since **neither is there any proof beyond itself, which is God**. For every proof is more powerful and trustworthy than that which it proves; since what is disbelieved, until proof is produced, gets credit when such proof is produced, and is recognised as being what it was stated to be. But nothing is either more powerful or more trustworthy than the truth; so that he who requires proof of this is like one who wishes it demonstrated why the things that appear to the senses do appear. For the test of those things which are received through the reason, is sense; but of sense itself there is no test beyond itself. As then we bring those things which reason hunts after, to sense, and by it judge what kind of things they are, whether the things spoken be true or false, and then sit in judgment no longer, giving full credit to its decision; so also

we refer all that is said regarding men and the world to the truth, and by it judge whether it be worthless or no. But the utterances of truth we judge by no separate test, giving full credit to itself.

So, for example, a Protestant may simply lean very heavily on their understanding of this verse, and that would be their faith. That's fine. At the end of the day, I'm also trusting on Jesus Himself and His finished work to deliver me from death and receive eternal life or that He has already delivered me from death and I've already received and receiving and awaiting eternal life (because I've been baptised into His death):

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)

There's many other things which Jesus has taught though. Jesus didn't drive his points home to inflict harm. Rather, He left words that we need to come into agreement with, trust and obey to be saved:

John 12:46-48 - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

For that reason, I would have more confidence before God if I was serving Him endeavouring to be pleasing to God through serving Jesus with a sincere faith, turning away from sin, renouncing ungodliness , loving the brethren, and trying to be holy and selfless and loving in faith towards Jesus, than if like a lawyer looking for a loophole I put confidence on doctrine but had no changed life / love for Jesus.

I John 2:24-28 - Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Strongest Case for Protestantism | @TruthUnites {@GospelSimplicity} @time: 5 min

I actually think it's been a Protestant influence in many ways that has caused us to think with less institutional restriction when we think about the church. And that's actually what I see as one of the great things about protestantism, and why it can function as a renewal effort within the entire church, even if it's not functioning technically in this church over here or that church over there because we do not restrict the church to one institution. And that I think that is actually the key difference between protestantism as such and the major non-protestant options ([eg.] Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy) is this lack of institutional exclusivism. ...

When I make that point the concern is, so what are you advocating for universalism? Not at all. There are boundaries to the church. We are exclusivists as Protestants. We think the church is 'here' and not 'there' - there's boundaries. But, we're not restricting it to one single institution with a visible hierarchy and so forth. It's a way of saying the people who aren't technically connected to me in my tribe or in my group or in my church are still fully Christian with their own valid church. And we lament the schism but we recognize it as a schism in the church, not a schism from the church, one direction or the other. That's a very Protestant instinct. It's kind of deep rooted in Protestant ways of thinking. I see it as a very good thing, simply because to be able to recognize the body of Christ where it is, is such a good thing. And you know in the book I talk about Mark 9 a lot where the disciples are threatened by this other exorcist who's casting out demons in Jesus's name, and John actually tries to stop him. And Jesus says, "Don't stop him. Whoever is not against us is for us." And it's challenging that sort of sense of um, maybe, a humanly constructed boundary that actually doesn't reflect where the kingdom of God lies. So I'm not applying that passage to all these questions right now, but it's trying to capture something of the Protestant ethos and instinct in terms of catholicity which is what I talk about a lot in the early parts of the book.

...

Mark 9 is one passage there's others. the ones I really go to a lot are Matthew 7 and Matthew 12 and the commandment from Christ himself to measure the tree by its fruit. That's with respect to prophets in Matthew 7 and with respect to an exorcism in Matthew 12. There's the doctrinal test of I Corinthians 12:3.

I Corinthians 12:3 - Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says Jesus is accursed! and no one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

So you've got this sense of, you know, you realize Paul is trying to give us a criterion here, and he expects us to use that.

It is actually commanded by the New Testament to measure by spiritual fruit. And, again I can bring a clarification there, maybe, spiritual fruit doesn't mean general good vibes. Uh this means what the Holy Spirit works in connection to the work of Christ.

...

So yeah it's not feelgoodism, it's a desire to be obedient to Jesus. I think, actually, when we obey Jesus is in response to those passages seeing the work of Jesus and acknowledging it as such.

...

The nub of the disagreement is the institutional exclusivism. Is the church a singular institution? And that's just a nub of disagreement where I think the Protestant side actually has a lot of argumentation for it. I think it's actually more coherent.

...

I think a Protestant way of thinking is more consistent because you're able to just say, no you don't have true Christians outside a visible Church. You just recognize the visible church has some fractures, but the church coheres within multiple institutions, and we try to heal those fractures, but we're recognizing there fractures within the one true visible Church.

Matthew 23:8 - But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Strongest Case for Protestantism | @TruthUnites {@GospelSimplicity} @time: 18 min

The whole church is not restricted to one institution, it coheres within multiple institutions. It's visible. We're not denying a visible church. It's visible and invisible. We have that distinction, but we're not saying it's only invisible. There's a visible church but she's got these rends and fractures through her. I just feel that's a very compelling way to look based upon the principle of examining spiritual fruit. I see genuine exorcisms from Catholic exorcists and from Pentecostal exorcists. I think the demons hate us both. I think we're both casting back the demons, and I think a Protestant can say, yeah, you know because 1 Corinthians 12:3. That Catholic, that Pentecostal both affirm the Lordship of Jesus in the sense that Paul affirmed. They have the shell of Orthodoxy. But that's not to minimize our differences. But, uh, you know exorcisms are one example. We could give other examples of where you see that fruit.

Now I had gone into court willingly after being born-again as I held my faith in Jesus and submitted to the authorities, but not perfect. After breaking bail to get baptised and bring everything into the light, obeying God and not man (See this video), the whole thing felt outside of my control (extremely graceless), and I was under clear impression especially later in 2022 that I was battling an antichrist spirit pressuring me into several things:

- Justification by works **in a way that denies** justification by faith in Jesus' blood (i.e. justification by works outside of Christ) when I had already received the Spirit earlier that year and had faith in the blood of Jesus and had believed my sins had been forgiven:
 - **Galatians 3:3** - Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? (ESV)

- **Philippians 3:9** - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that **depends on faith** — (ESV)
- Tempting me to out of faith with Jesus, by making me fearful of jail
 - **Hebrews 12:16** - that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. (ESV)
 - **I John 4:18** - There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (ESV)
- Pressuring me to not pass forward the love of Christ
 - **Matthew 6:14-15** - For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (ESV)
 - **Colossians 3:13** - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (ESV)
- Pressuring me to affirm all my error instead of embracing sanctification:
 - **I Peter 1:2** - according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (ESV)

As interesting as the parallels or similarities are with my own testimony, I think this Mormon doctrine shows interesting parallels or similarities with my own testimony but I cannot affirm everything, nor their extra books, and I am not a Mormon :: thechurchnews.com: Isaac: Child of the promise and heir of the promises - Church News (Mormonism)

I don't need to prove myself to men, as God sees the heart, but I have my relationship with God:

- **I Chronicles 29:17** - **I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness.** In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. (ESV)

So through obedience to the gospel, I came into the light, I pleaded guilty, I made testimony of Jesus, etc. "whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." This is Biblical gospel teaching, that through faith in Jesus we may be saved, and I disagree with the Mormons' interpretation.

- **John 3:21** - But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been **carried out in God.** (ESV)
- **Matthew 16:25** - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

It's really interesting what has happened regarding my testimony of getting born-again, my blog writings of 2022 and of course, court and how it relates to **Isaiah 1:12-17**. I think the take-away from this is that we should cease to do evil and learn to do good. It is odd that although I do not observe new moons or religious 'feasts', whatever has happened has happened. I think everyone involved should repent before God going forward:

Isaiah 1:12-17 - When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. **Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.** (ESV)

I also do not affirm the LDS doctrine here. I see the LDS stuff here as heretical, and I do not consider their extra books to be Scripture.:

- en.wikipedia.org: Melchizedek priesthood {Latter Day Saints} - Wikipedia

Hebrews 5:1-6 - For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. **And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.** So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, You are my Son, today I have begotten you; as he says also in another place, You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

I've been attending Bible studies and allowing myself to be corrected and renewed in mind by the Truth which is the Word of God:

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

And I think that the spirits which I attacked me tried to bundle in my desire to marry the girl I had met with false religion.

I affirm that I wanted to marry her when I met her at the Baptist church long before (if I recall the events precisely) I had even visited the Mormon church, so I have a good conscience before God with regards to the marriage proposal and that. Jehovah God as my witness, it was love that issued from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith and I believe the enemy tried to sabotage me:

I Timothy 1:3-5 - As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. **The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.** (ESV)

I cannot affirm spirits or dreams which do not confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus. Neither can I affirm as without error my own writings, especially those I have written as I've been repenting from error:

- web.archive.org mullikine.github.io: Dream: King John the Baptist // Bodacious Blog

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

Now I endeavour to take every thought captive to Christ:

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

No, You Do Not Hold The Melchizedek Priesthood So he is King of Peace and King of Righteousness, serving bread and wine, praising God, a priest, and Abram tithes to him! However, I don't believe he is actually a preincarnate appearance of Christ—Hebrews 7:3 tells us that Melchizedek resembled Jesus, not that he was Jesus.

And that is a key point: The text isn't saying that Jesus is like Melchizedek, but that Melchizedek is like Jesus—that Jesus is the true and better Melchizedek, just as he is the true and better Temple, Lamb, Passover, Moses, David, on forward. This is another case of typology, that this is about that. God wrote the story of Melchizedek in living history, to later teach us something of the Person and work of Jesus. So that is the origin of this designation.

AMEN!!

For a long while now I have affirmed that Jesus is the only King, and my King and in doing so I really mean to say that I am not a king, but would happily let Jesus call me His brother and a royal priest in His kingdom:

Song youtube.com: Only King Forever | Live | Elevation Worship

Revelation of John 19:19 - And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. (ESV)

Psalms 82:6-8 - I said, You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince. Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations! (ESV)

Verses such as this demonstrate the holy justice of God. God nearly put Moses to death:

Exodus 4:24-26 - At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me! So he let him alone. It was then that she said, A bridegroom of blood, because of the circumcision. (ESV)

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó - value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs - unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina - in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

biblehub.com 3-16.htm: John 3:16 Interlinear: for God did so love the world, that His Son – the only begotten – He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during.

John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)

We are found in Christ by having faith in Christ and putting on Christ. This was my behaviour during 2022 after being born-again. I was acting obediently and in faith knowing I was born-again and saved already and had to pass on love and forgiveness, and also repent from error - all of these:

Galatians 3:22-29 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for **in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith**. For **as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ**. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

Quote from John Piper The most profound change in the universe is when a human being passes from death to life - from spiritual deadness to spiritual aliveness and this text is about how to help that change happen.

AMEN!

youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit @time: 48 min 13 sec "If anyone keeps Jesus' word, holds fast, treasures it, in obedience, that person will not be quenching the Spirit, that person will not be grieving the Spirit, but will know the fullness and sweetness of fellowship with the Father and the Son."

AMEN to that, John Piper.

Ephesians 3:6 - This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (ESV)

We must be children of the promise:

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that **it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.** (ESV)

Romans 2:26-29 - So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But **a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.** His praise is not from man but from God. (ESV)

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. We should perform deeds in keeping with repentance:

Acts 26:20 - but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, **performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.** (ESV)

Luke 3:8 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. (ESV)

The promise given to Abraham and to his offspring, Christ, is to be an heir of the world. Believers may become co-heirs with Christ as they are found in Christ, provided they suffer with Him:

Romans 4:13 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (ESV)

Matthew 1:1 - The book of the genealogy of **Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.** (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:16 - I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. **I am the root and the descendant of David**, the bright morning star. (ESV)

Romans 8:17 - and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

For believers, the promise is having a *share* in the inheritance but the entire inheritance belongs to Jesus, not us. Also it only goes to those who are glorified with Him through suffering:

Colossians 1:11-12 - May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (ESV)

We trust/believe in the one true God who raised Jesus Christ our Lord from the dead. We have peace with God through trusting faith:

Romans 4:23-25,5:1-2 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. **It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

We have faith in Almighty God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Our faith is modeled on Abraham's:

Romans 4:16-17 - That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, I have made you the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, **who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.** (ESV)

We need to call on God for help:

Romans 10:8-13 - But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (G3670 homologēsēs, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (ESV)

OK, so the Spirit is received through faith (faith like Abraham's) in Jesus Christ to all who believe. The promise was made to Abraham and to Christ. Now we must be found in Christ. Amen:

Galatians 3:13-16 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus **the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.** To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, And to offsprings, referring to many, but referring to one, And to your offspring, who is Christ. (ESV)

3.1.3 Becoming born-again of the Spirit may be receiving the inheritance

Then there may be some nuance between receiving the Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance, and being born of the Spirit which may be [part of] our inheritance.

I Corinthians 15:50 - I tell you this, brothers: **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,** nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (ESV)

In trusting in Jesus Christ, we may receive the Holy Spirit:

John 7:37-39 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts (G1372 dipsaó), let him come to me and drink (G4095 pinó). Whoever believes (G4100 pisteúo) in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for **as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.** (ESV)

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.** (ESV)

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

3.1.4 The living water, the Holy Spirit of promise is the seal of our inheritance, and received through faith in Jesus

John 4:10 - Jesus answered her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. (ESV)

John 4:14 - but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (ESV)

3.1.5 Jesus being glorified means we can receive the Holy Spirit through faith

John 13:31-32 - Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. (KJV)

John 20:22 - And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (ESV)

3.1.6 When we are born of the Spirit, we receive a regenerated spirit-man. This is part of the inheritance, I think

Being born of the Spirit / spiritually regenerated I think is a different event to receiving the Holy Spirit which typically happens beforehand, particularly for Gentile Christians when we give our heart to the Lord Jesus:

Galatians 4:28-31 - Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as **at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit**, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

Romans 4:13-18 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, I have made you the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, So shall your offspring be. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

3.1.7 Any spiritual experience should be in the character of the Holy Spirit

youtube.com: How to Preach with Supernatural Power @time: 8 min 16 sec He does not mean that something spiritual is religious or mystical or other-worldly. That's what most people think about spiritual... Well, no it's not. Instead spiritual for Paul meant originating by the Holy Spirit and having the quality of the Holy Spirit, formed by the character of the Holy Spirit. It is supernatural, wrought, shaped by the Holy Spirit... The problem with the 'mind of the flesh' is not that it fails to be religious, or that it fails to be mystical or that it fails to be other-worldly. In fact, the mind of the flesh may be intensely religious. The mind of the flesh may be very mystical, very other-worldly. The problem with the mind of the flesh is that it's hardened against the beauty of God, the worth of God, the authority of God. It's hard against God. It's unable to welcome and love and delight in and enjoy God.

AMEN John Piper. Thanks.

youtube.com: C. S. Lewis 2024 - Characteristics of the Holy Spirit's personality

Romans 8:6-9 - To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

3.1.8 My testimony of being born-again of the Spirit

Being born of the Spirit is something which is genuinely unpredictable but we can sense its coming and going. It's not the same thing as getting someone to pray a sinner's prayer, for example, otherwise Jesus would not have used this analogy. We can sense it (hear its sound, such as making testimony of being born of the Spirit), but we don't know where it comes from or where it goes:

John 3:3-8 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but **you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.** So it is with everyone who is **born of the Spirit.** (ESV)

People were being born according to the Spirit for quite some time before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary but it has been restricted to the children of promise i.e. Abraham's descendants through Isaac:

Galatians 4:28-31 - Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But **just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.** But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

And the prophets also had the spirit of Christ in them before the suffering of Christ:

I Peter 1:8-11 - Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time (G2540 kairós, appointed time) the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent (G3326 meta, contingent) glories. (ESV)

I was born-again 'of the Spirit' on 2 April 2022 where I was given a new body, or it was regenerated - a blue light-body.

Galatians 6:14-17 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:5 - He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Be Who You Are: Living Out Identity in Christ, Part 1

We are saved to serve Christ:

II Corinthians 5:15 - and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. (ESV)

We are meant to serve God. We are saved from not serving God, that we serve God through serving Christ:

Luke 4:4-8 - And Jesus answered him, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone. And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours. And Jesus answered him, It is written, **You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.** (ESV)

We are saved to work for Christ for the sake of Christ and the ministry of reconciling other sinners to God through Christ:

II Corinthians 5:18 - All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; (ESV)

The Apostles were working with Christ. I believe the Apostles also here are exhorting believers to work with Christ to receive the grace of God. The Apostles also practiced what they preached. OK, so imagine a situation where someone is just being so irrationally abusive, or so irrationally hateful and unloving towards people. It might be worth picturing that person as Jesus and Jesus putting Himself in that situation so that you can carry out His commandments and demonstrate God's love towards them. It might also be worth picturing that person as someone who God has set before you to love them and so pass forward the love of God, and perhaps lead them to Jesus. God **bought** that opportunity for you to love them, and He also trust you with it, as you trust His commandments. He puts us in the position of being able to demonstrate the love of God, and He entrusts you with it, to show that person the love of God, for their sake, and for Jesus' sake, and for your sake. That's the freedom which Jesus bought for us. Imagine you want to be able to live-out Jesus' commandments and you feel like they're just so challenging or daunting, or impossible. Fulfilling Christ's law is not impossible. All things are possible with God. And to fulfill the law of Christ is what Paul challenged us to do.

Well, Jesus bought for us the ability to live out His commandments, and live out Father God's commandments to us authentically and without fear of punishment.

Yes, we make mistakes, but God just continues working with us and in us, and Jesus teaches us to obey His commandments better, and live in this way. And since the Holy Spirit goes to those who obey Jesus, it's as if Jesus helps us to do it. So He gives us His commandments, and we put our faith in Him and obey Him and He helps us to continue doing them:

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him**, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:11 - Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. (ESV)

Jesus helps us when we are being tempted. So we are trying to be faithful and obedient to Jesus Christ and Jesus helps us:

Hebrews 2:14-18 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and **deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery**. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but **he helps the offspring of Abraham**. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted.** (ESV)

God supports us as we abide in His commandments:

Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (ESV)

Isaiah 41:10 - fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (ESV)

Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (ESV)

God strengthens us as we abide in His commandments:

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (ESV)

Colossians 1:9-12 - And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him**, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you **be strengthened** with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (ESV)

So if we are able to keep Jesus' commandments through trial, Jesus is publicly shaming spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places as we overcome temptation, as Jesus helps us to ourselves have satan crushed under our feet:

I Peter 3:14-16 - But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (ESV)

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Jesus Himself put the rulers (fallen angels, spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places) and authorities to open shame, and He does something similar for us where we put them to open shame, as Jesus works with us through trial:

Colossians 2:15 - He disarmed the rulers (G746 arché) and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers (G746 arché), against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

James 2:22 - You see that faith (G4102 pistis) was working with (4903. sunergeó) his works (G2041 ergon), and as a result of the works (G2041 ergon), faith (G4102 pistis) was perfected (G5048 teleioo);

4903. sunergeó Definition: to work together. Usage: I cooperate with, work together.

II Corinthians 7:15 - And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. (ESV)

God put our sin on Jesus:

youtube.com: John MacArthur | The Gospel in 1 Minute | #paulwasher #voddiebaucham #billygraham

The Bible, II Corinthians 5:21 - He made Him who knew no sin sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Let me unpack those 15 Greek words. He, God, made Jesus sin. What do you mean He made Jesus sin? Only in one sense he treated him as if he had committed every sin ever committed by every person who would ever believe, though in fact he committed none of them. Hanging on the cross, He was Holy, harmless, undefiled. Hanging on the cross, He was a spotless Lamb. He was never for a split second a sinner. He is Holy God on the cross. But God is treating him - I'll put it more practically - as if he lived my life.

God punished Jesus for my sin, turns right around and treats me as if I lived His life.

(In what ways though does God treat us as if we have lived Jesus' life? And at what point though? Because I think what John MacArthur says just here is oversimplified. God still disciplines us, for example. And it's hubris to think that there is no need for ongoing sanctification. Yes, we get seated in Heavenly Places with Christ. In this way, sure, God is treating me like Jesus Christ. For those who abide in Christ, we have an Advocate with our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous [^{*I John 2:1*}]. John says our advocate is Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. With an oversimplified gospel it might sound we don't need an Advocate at all, but we do need one.)

That's the great doctrine of substitution and on that Doctrine turned the whole Reformation of the church - that is the heart of the gospel. And what you get is complete forgiveness covered by the righteousness of Jesus Christ. When He (God) looks at the cross he sees you. When He looks at you he sees Christ.

We shouldn't oversimplify the doctrine of substitution. For those who abide in Christ, we have an advocate with our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous:

I John 2:1 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (ESV)

There is no sin in Jesus, but in a sense, Father God has laid on Jesus our iniquity. How has that happened? I think it like this: Jesus in entrusting Himself to Father God was essentially delivered from evil when He conquered death, being raised from the dead. Father God has not only taken Him back up to glory but saves all the people putting their trust in Jesus. Jesus remains without sin but the sin that would have brought us death (and we would have stayed down, buried under sin) was put on Jesus who carried it. Jesus rose from the dead and conquers death for all those who would be saved through Him. But Jesus wasn't smitten by God, but it did appear like it. Jesus was carrying (G399 anaphérō) our iniquities. Evil people, blasphemers themselves, accused Jesus of blasphemy and had Him crucified, but Jesus did not retaliate. Rather, Jesus was put to death unjustly while having promised through the gospel that if they or anyone repents and does what Abraham did, well, put their trust in Him, then they would be saved. He left us commandments which we abide in and in abiding in His commandments we abide in Him.

G399 anaphérō (from 303 /aná, "up" and 5342 /phérō, "bring, carry") – properly, bring up to the goal (end point), i.e. carrying something through its sequence to reach its needed consummation (note the prefix, ana).

Bearing, carrying, our sins, Jesus suffered in His flesh. Jesus didn't have sin inside Him at all but He was carrying our sin. But Father God treated (past-tense) spotless Jesus Christ, His Son as if He was the sin He was carrying. The past tense is used when the passage says "He made Him to be sin" and the future tense for "in him we might". So, in Jesus saying "not my will but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42) I believe Jesus could have asked for justice, for deliverance, but was perfectly obedient to Father God. With perfect obedience to Father God, Jesus could not have possibly stayed in the grave. God's will was never for Jesus to be killed off permanently but, rather, for Jesus to fulfill the law and the prophets while not being delivered from the scurging from evil men and for Jesus to defeat death. So what must we do? Well, we must hold our faith in Jesus. We must trust and obey Jesus. We must abide in Jesus' commandments. We **must** do that. And for people who do that, we are able to be forgiven and sanctified (cleaned up), sanctified by faith and obedience to Jesus:

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Jesus did not retaliate but continued entrusting Himself to Father God. So now those who are in Him can die to sin and live for righteousness. And we **must**:

I Peter 2:22-24 - He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore (G399 anaphérō) our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

I Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, (ESV)

I John 3:5-7 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

Jesus was not smitten by God, but rather He was carrying our sins as wicked men afflicted Him and killed Him. Jesus went willingly, knowing what would happen:

Isaiah 53:4-6 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (ESV)

We must go on abiding in Him, abiding in His commandments and put sin to death by the grace of God:

I John 3:5-7 - And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. (KJV)

I Thessalonians 4:1-8 - Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

Being born-again of the spirit was a total gift received through faith in Jesus, none of my own merit at all - simple very imperfect repentance from sin and faith in God exercising faithfulness:

I don't really know what this is. It was something like a singularity event and my perception of the world is now spiritual. Most of my life I have not been a very faithful Christian. I was a 'nominal' Christian but I didn't really have a lot of faith or knowledge of God. I had not been seeking out Jesus. For the 2 years leading up to 2 April 2022, I can tell now in retrospect that God was working in my life, and I had begun seeking Jesus, and trying out repentance, and eventually arrived at the point where I was crying to God for help. So when was I born-again? Was it when I first believed as a child, or when I was baptised as a teenager? Not in the same way I was born-again on 2 April 2022. On 2 April 2022 I was truly born-again of the Spirit, and my best explanation as to what had changed was that I had begun to **authentically seek God and to be obedient to Jesus, accountable to God who sees in secret**, and not to man, and that activated a real prayer life, and actively believing God exists and sees, and I had asked God to give me His Holy Spirit. Even though I could not yet hear His voice, I was praying and seeking and beginning to repent. On the 2 April 2022 I was born-again the Spirit - I was spiritually regenerated - whatever it was that happened which I described. When that happened God had put the fear of Him in my heart so that I would not turn from Him, and it was receiving a new spiritual light-body like being birthed from a womb. When I first 'believed' the gospel, this had not happened yet, but I had the testimony I guess. This event, what I experienced on 2 April 2022 I consider to me being born of 'water and the Spirit'. But hearing and keeping the gospel of Jesus, and asking God to receive the Holy Spirit, or seeking God I guess they will have some events, probably different to my 2 April 2022 event something similar happen then or in their future some time, I assume, or perhaps it is 'entering the Kingdom of God'. I don't know exactly how it works. I'm retroactively trying to figure things out by reading the Scriptures.

As I understand it, if someone is "born of God", they would love Jesus. If someone loves with Christ's love then they are "born of God and know God" and they would love Jesus if presented with Jesus. If someone is "born of the Spirit" then they have been spiritually regenerated. Being born of the Spirit is what I understand is to be "born-again of water and the Spirit".

Maybe these two things are at the same time if a person believes without doubting.

We are sealed when we give our heart to Jesus in believing (trusting) in Him. Holy Spirit is given to us in our hearts:

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:21-22 - And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (ESV)

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

One way of reading Acts 19:1-6 is that a person may not yet have received the Holy Spirit at the time they 'believed' - believed what exactly though, because Acts 19:1-6 demonstrates that context matters - they hadn't even heard, for example that there is a Holy Spirit. I think it's certainly essential to have trust in God in order to be born of the Spirit, as far as I can tell. When we put our trust in God we have obeyed a commandment from God to put our truth in Him. We should go on obeying Him.

When the following says "they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**", I'm sure this is baptism in water. It's also apparent that a person may receive the Holy Spirit at the time they believed, and the passage also seems to suggest that believing alongside being baptized in water, the person is expected to receive the Holy Spirit:

Acts 19:1-6 - And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, **Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?** And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. And he said, Into what then were you baptized? They said, Into John's baptism. And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. On hearing this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. (ESV)

Also, a person may not have been "Born of the Spirit" (whatever it was that happened to me on 2 April 2022) when they initially believed. But rather, I think they are "born of God", that is if they do in truth believe that Jesus is the Christ:

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

I had begun to **authentically seek God and to be obedient to Jesus, accountable to God who sees in secret.** Then I was born of the Spirit.

We must love Jesus by keeping His commandments:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

A friend said this at church the very day after I was born again of the Spirit, " **Just because some messages may have been wrong, don't quench the work of God's Spirit among you by banning all prophecies, but rather make sure you test them. Hold onto what is good and dismiss those that are not good** (i.e. those that are evil). "

I Thessalonians 5:20-21 - Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. (ESV)

I feel that way about my experience of being born-again of the Spirit and then undergoing purification and ongoing repentance and correction.

Over the course of 2022, I was actually speaking a lot of prophecy. There was a lot of truth in it, and a lot of error, but my defense is Jesus and I was getting to know Jesus through being washed in the word, and in obedience to Jesus' commandments, and being corrected by the word, but we don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Revelation of John 19:10 - Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.** (ESV)

I Thessalonians 1:4-5 - For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. (ESV)

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:19 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (ESV)

As a result of being born of the Spirit and subsequent obedience to Jesus' commandments has resulted in a huge amount of worldly resistance, and also I've had to fight against a spirit of justification by law compliance, and I've had to fight against a spirit which denies my sins were atoned for and tries to get me to do good works for justification. I still do good works out of obedience but I resist the spirit pressuring me to work for justification (it is a very vindictive, Christ-denying spirit, and it is incredibly persistent):

Galatians 4:29 - But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. (ESV)

3.2 Experiential heart belief through obedience

If you want to really get to know someone then you would learn to walk in their footsteps. Belief must arrive in the heart, not merely the head. There's a confession, an admittance, and a belief in the heart:

Romans 10:9 - because, if you confess (G3670 *homologēsēs*, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (ESV)

We should definitely confess (G3670 *homologeō*) Jesus to others:

Luke 12:8-9 - And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. (ESV)

Faith presses on to walk the same way Jesus walked - even to spend the rest of the time on earth obedient to Jesus to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection, becoming like Him in His death (i.e. being faithful to God, stopping sin, exercising righteousness, becoming a scapegoat, even to death like the Apostles, sharing in His sufferings, living has He lived) and His resurrection:

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

3.3 Repentance from sin may come before believing in Jesus

Acts 19:4 - And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. (ESV)

3.4 Born of God

I think being born of God might in some way mean being born of *the will of God*:

John 1:13 - who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

By a sovereign act of God in giving us His Word we are born-again of His will by His word - through faith in His Word:

James 1:16-18 - Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. **Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (KJV)

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

I find both of these helpful:

- youtube.com: "Whosoever is Born of God Doth Not Commit Sin" 1 John 3 Explained {@OnoDiamante}
- youtube.com: Does the Bible Say True Christians Never Sin? {@desiringGod}

I think this verse could likely mean that the person who is born of God has the power to not sin, as opposed to "never sins", but I'd have to research that. I think it also means we are brought to no longer sin, but rather to be doing the will of God, just as Christ is without sin:

1 3956 3588 1080 1537 3588
2 Pas ho gegennēmenos ek tou
3 Π
4 Anyone - having been born of -
5 Adj-NMS Art-NMS V-RPM/P-NMS Prep Art-GMS
6
7 2316 266 3756 4160 3754 4690
8 Theou hamartian ou poiei hoti sperma
9 Θ , ,
10 God sin not practices because seed
11 N-GMS N-AFS Adv V-PIA-3S Conj N-NNS
12
13 846 1722 846 3306 2532 3756
14 autou en autō menei kai ou
15 ,
16 of Him in him abides and not
17 PPro-GM3S Prep PPro-DM3S V-PIA-3S Conj Adv
18
19 1410 264 3754
20 dynatai hamartanein hoti
21 ,
22 he is able to continue sinning because
23 V-PIM/P-3S V-PNA Conj
24
25 1537 3588 2316 1080
26 ek tou Theou gegennētai
27 Θ .
28 of mfs - God he has been born
29 Prep Art-GMS N-GMS V-RIM/P-3S

I Peter 4:1-5 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (ESV)

One thing for sure, the person born of God is brought into doing the will of God:

I John 5:18 - We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. (KJV)

I John 5:4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (ESV)

Someone who has just been born of God is a newborn, an infant in Christ.

Keeping Father God's commandments, we love Father God and we love all those who have been born of Him. We must love all those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah because anyone who believes Jesus is the Messiah has been born of God:

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

The one who believes Jesus is the Son of God is loved by the brethren, joins the family and overcomes the world:

I John 5:5 - Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

3.4.1 We put away the false gods, and only worship the One True God: Jehovah, and Jesus Christ who He sent

Jehovah is God Almighty who was working through Jesus Christ who is the Son of God who also is to be worshiped as Jehovah God, now reigning on the throne of His Father:

Exodus 6:3 - I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. (ESV)

Exodus 6:3 (Interlinear) and I appear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; as to My name Jehovah, I have not been known to them;

Jesus reigns and inherits all things. Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God:

Hebrews 1:1-4 - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (ESV)

Jesus is to be honoured just the Father is honoured. Father and Son and Holy Spirit are all Jehovah:

John 5:22-23 - The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. (ESV)

Genesis 18:25-26 - Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just? And the LORD said, If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake. (ESV)

II Corinthians 3:14-18 - But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

Proverbs 14:31 - Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him. (ESV)

Abraham saw Jesus:

John 8:56-58 - Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. (ESV)

The Bible actually teaches that other so-called gods (all those Hindu gods, for example) are not the One True God who created everything. I affirm Christianity's perspective on this. According to Christianity, to serve them is actually to live in some kind of delusion:

I Corinthians 8:3-7 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that an idol has no real existence, and that **there is no God but one**. For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many gods and many lords— yet **for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist**. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. (ESV)

It's true that there are such 'heavenly' beings, but we're not supposed to worship them:

Psalms 82:6-8 - I said, You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince. Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations! (ESV)

The spiritual entities behind idols are demons - forces of evil in heavenly places. Idol worship is demonic:

I Corinthians 10:20 - No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the **spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places**. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:14-31 - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is

one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. For the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, This has been offered in sacrifice, then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (ESV)

youtube.com: Demons - documentary film with Dr. Michael S. Heiser {@logosbiblesoftware} @time: 8 m

For all of you who wanna say, "Oh, it's just idols or just, objects of stone or whatever, and they don't have real entities behind them."

"Why would Paul care then?" Are you saying that Paul didn't believe that demons were real? I'm sorry, but Paul did, okay?

Paul quotes this passage using elohim of these other entities.

That certainly did have idols made for them.

In the biblical worldview, these were real entities that mattered because they were hostile and could lead people astray, away from the true God.

We are supposed to be dedicated, devoted to Jesus Christ, and we should not be dedicated, devoted to idols or demons:

II Corinthians 11:2-4 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel (G3844 par', contrary to) from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. (ESV)

Notice how II Cor 11:4 uses the greek word **par** which seems to translate to "contrary". OK, so if someone is speaking the same thing as Jesus and the Apostles, then great. But if they are preaching, say, against "repentance from sin" then they are not speaking the same gospel, they're not speaking the same thing as Jesus and the Apostles.

Romans 12:1 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (ESV)

In these times with the artificial intelligence stuff, when people find themselves dedicated, devoted to chatbots, for example, I believe that they are devoting themselves to idols and I think such devotion is demonic.

Jeremiah 13:10 - This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own heart and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loinloth, which is good for nothing. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 30:17-18 - But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 11:16 - Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; (ESV)

Revelation of John 13:15-18 - And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 - Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (ESV)

youtube.com: Why ChatGPT is evil ? {@LukePreach-now} I decided to stop using ChatGPT for anything. I didn't realize how demonic it actually was. But it's demonic because it takes the place of your relationship with God because God wants to speak to you directly. And as I started asking for Bible verses again from God, now he's given me two to three every single day as I'm growing.

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

Neither should we worship angels, good or evil:

Colossians 2:18 - Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, (ESV)

In times past, God overlooked the worship of false-gods:

Joshua 24:15 - And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (ESV)

John 10:34-38 - Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your Law, I said, you are gods? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. (ESV)

But now God calls all people everywhere to repent. Christians must turn away from worshiping false-gods, practicing witchcraft, etc.:

Acts 17:29-32 - Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, We will hear you again about this. (ESV)

Christians do not worship foreign gods:

Joshua 24:23 - He said, Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel. (ESV)

Genesis 35:2-3 - So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone. (ESV)

As a Christian, I want nothing to do with false-gods:

Revelation of John 9:20-21 - The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (ESV)

And as a prophetic person, I do not want to encourage anyone to worship false-gods and so be labeled as a false-prophet:

Revelation of John 16:13-15 - And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For **they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.** (Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!) (ESV)

3.4.2 Peter initially protested, but then came to trust Jesus and have a "share with Jesus"

John 13:6-9 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? Jesus answered him, *What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.* Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, **If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.** Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! (ESV)

3.4.3 Jesus created disciples of Himself

Jesus gave us understanding so that we may know God:

I John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (ESV)

We **must** turn to obedience to Jesus and abiding in Christ's love to come to know God, and abiding in Christ's love doesn't only mean abiding in the love He had for us, but it means keeping Jesus' commandments, and Jesus' commands us to love one-another as He did.

We practice agape love to people, especially to God and our family in Christ to know God and be known by God:

I John 4:8 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

And we **must** forgive one another in Christ:

Colossians 3:12-13 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** (ESV)

We **ought to / must** love as Christ loved us, as He is our Lord and Teacher, but Jesus **WASHED** (past-tense) us and then we **ought** to love as He did and we practice personal righteousness while having His imputed righteousness, as he is our Master.

II John 1:6-9 - And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

We are forgiven to do the will of God. We are saved to obey God better. God puts us into Christ. We obey to wash others, and for ourselves to be sanctified, like a branch becoming healthier in the tree:

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

We are cleaned by the blood of Christ to serve the living God:

Matthew 4:10 - Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

We serve God by serving Christ:

Romans 16:17-20 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

3.4.4 Forgiveness through love, through obedience to Jesus

1 Clement of Rome (Latin: Clemens Romanus;

2 Ancient Greek: Κλήμης, romanized: Klēmēs

3 Rōmēs; died c. 100 AD), also known as Pope

4 Clement I, was the Bishop of Rome in the late

5 first century AD.

6

7 He is considered to be the first of the

8 Apostolic Fathers of the Church, and a leading

9 member of the Church in Rome in the late 1st

10 century.

11

12 Little is known about Clement's life.

13

14 Tertullian claimed that Clement was ordained

15 by Saint Peter.
16
17 Early church lists place him as the second or
18 third bishop of Rome.
19
20 Eusebius, in his book Church History mentioned
21 Clement as the third bishop of Rome and as the
22 "co-laborer" of Paul.
23
24 In Against Heresies, Irenaeus described
25 Clement as the successor to Anacletus, who was
26 the third bishop of Rome, and as a personal
27 acquaintance of the Apostles.

Philippians 4:3 - Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. (ESV)

1Clem 50:1 Ye see, dearly beloved, how great and marvelous a thing is love, and there is no declaring its perfection.

1Clem 50:2 Who is sufficient to be found therein, save those to whom God shall vouchsafe it? Let us therefore entreat and ask of His mercy, that we may be found blameless in love, standing apart from the factiousness of men. All the generations from Adam unto this day have passed away: but they that by God's grace were perfected in love dwell in the abode of the pious; and they shall be made manifest in the visitation of the Kingdom of God.

1Clem 50:3 For it is written; Enter into the closet for a very little while until Mine anger and Mine wrath shall pass away, and I will remember a good day and will raise you from your tombs.

1Clem 50:4 Blessed were we, dearly beloved, if we should be doing the commandments of God in concord of love, to the end that our sins may through love be forgiven us.

1Clem 50:5 For it is written; Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall impute no sin, neither is guile in his mouth.

In Jesus Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, and are transferred into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

As we walk in the light, as He is in the light, that is in the Truth, walking in, believing, professing and obeying Jesus Christ in Truth, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin:

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

We are sanctified in the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ, and for sprinkling with His blood:

I Peter 1:2 - according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (ESV)

3.4.5 Everyone who is actively and actually believing that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

3.4.6 Whoever loves with Christ's love has been born of God and knows God

Christ's love, agape love, is a treasuring love that doesn't want other people to die - it treasures them. Jesus agape loved and treasured Father God:

John 14:30-31 - I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here. (ESV)

Luke 2:46-52 - And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that **I must be about my Father's business?** And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept (G1301 diatéreó) all these sayings in her heart. And **Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.** (KJV)

Jesus as the bread of God demonstrated God's love for us as He gave Himself away for us. But Jesus also gave us commandments to teach us how to agape love and said the one who keeps His commandments is the one who agape loves Him. He not only cleared up how to love God and our neighbour but also demonstrated it for us with the ultimate example to follow. We also should have the mind of giving ourselves away to others. Jesus being perfectly obedient to Father God was so secure He could give Himself away for others. We should also have that mind of being so confident with God's promises of salvation for us that we can keep Jesus' commandments to the point where we are giving ourselves away to others to ease their burdens and help them to trust in Jesus.

John 15:12-14 - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

Love Jesus through obedience to His commandments:

John 16:26-33 - In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father. His disciples said, Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God. Jesus answered them, Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)

John 14:21-23 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (ESV)

Philippians 2:1-8 - So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

We should be keeping the ways of God (walking righteously, remaining faithful to Jesus, keeping His commandments, not cheating, not taking shortcuts, but actually keeping them accountable to God) makes prayer more powerful, and makes it easier to break through strongholds to bring other people to saving faith.

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess (G3670 homologeo) your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (ESV)

I John 4:6-12 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

3.5 A person who is really believing in Jesus will do the works of Jesus - they'll produce good works

This doesn't necessarily mean that obedience is nonexistent before good works, as believing in Jesus is obedience, and repentance is obedience and these things are not done in a heart of "working for justification". It is obedient to end (turn away from) the bad works:

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

We just turn away from doing satan's will and turn towards doing God's will:

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.** (ESV)

But repentance and belief should result in good works (serving the living God):

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

3.5.1 Receiving the inheritance naturally comes after hearing the word of truth and believing in Jesus

The initial seal of the Holy Spirit comes with hearing the gospel and believing in Jesus.

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

Acts 20:32 - And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (ESV)

3.6 Further repentance from sin and to come to love in the way that Jesus did is an inevitable consequence of being born of God i.e. truly believing in Jesus

If a righteous person is living by true faith then they will have an upright soul:

Habakkuk 2:4 - Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. (ESV)

People are able to repent from sin before coming to believe in Jesus but it's much easier and inevitable after coming to believe in Jesus.

Sermon :: youtube.com: Killing Lust with the Cross of Christ Step 1: The sin is cancelled by the blood of Christ. We're Justified before God, and then **Step 2:** We purge that sin from our lives; Can't ever get that backwards. Sin canceled, then sin purged.

God's spirit really helps us to stop sinning. Actively believing in Jesus should produce the fruit of putting a stop to sin.

The wrath of God still comes on people who are not repentant from sin, who do not turn from their wickedness and don't have the fear of God, who don't have true faith God, who don't have the fear of God and a love for the truth, but who still love their sin. People born-again of Spirit absolutely must be repentant, and not be suppressing the truth of God, and must agape love the truth, and agape love the children of God:

Romans 1:17-18 - For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. (engbsb2020eb)

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly (G1169 deilós), the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (ESV)

G1169 deilós (an adjective derived from deidō, "fear-driven") – properly, dreadful, describing a person who loses their "moral gumption (fortitude)" that is needed to follow the Lord. G1169 deilós is always used negatively in the NT and stands in contrast to the positive fear which can be expressed by G5401 phóbos ("fear," see Phil 2:12).

True faith is faith which results in us loving those who have faith in Jesus Christ, loving them as we follow God's commandments:

I John 3:14-15 - We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a murderer. (engbsb2020eb)

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

It's suppressing the truth by a person's wickedness which incurs the judgement. People who suppress the truth about God with wickedness prefer the darkness to the light. Those who have true faith in God have the fear of God, they have a love of the truth:

Romans 1:17-18 - For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. (engbsb2020eb)

We need to heed Jesus' warning that we need to change our minds or perish. We have to stop believing falsehood and believe/trust Jesus and Jesus' words:

Luke 13:3 - No, I tell you; but unless you repent (3340. metanoeó), you will all likewise perish. (ESV)

For it to be said of us that we have "ceased from sin" we must have the same mind of Jesus, as in, we must have "suffered in the flesh", and what I think this means is our old self crucified, the body of sin is being brought to nothing, we resist sin:

Romans 6:6-9 - We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (ESV)

I John 3:9 - No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (ESV)

I Peter 4:1 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for **whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin**, (ESV)

I John 5:18 - We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. (ESV)

3.7 Knowing God by obeying Jesus and loving with Christ's love implies you have at some stage been born of God

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

3.8 Obedience lead to belief which leads to obedience (loving with Christ's love with the help of God's spirit) which leads to overcoming the world

I John 5:4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (ESV)

3.9 We overcome the world with a new spirit God has given us to wait and trust on Him and obey Him

I John 5:4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (ESV)

We overcome the world, reigning in life thanks to the free gift of righteousness **through** Jesus Christ:

Romans 5:15-17 - But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness **reign (basileuó) in life** through the one man Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Polycarp 5:1 Knowing then that God is not mocked, we ought to walk worthily of His commandment and His glory.

Polycarp 5:2 In like manner deacons should be blameless in the presence of His righteousness, as deacons of God and Christ and not of men; not calumniators, not double-tongued, not lovers of money, temperate in all things, compassionate, diligent, walking according to the truth of the Lord who became a minister (deacon) of all. For **if we be well pleasing unto Him in this present world, we shall receive the future world also**, according as He promised us to raise us from the dead, and that if we conduct ourselves worthily of Him we shall also reign with Him, if indeed we have faith.

I Timothy 4:7-10 - Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness**; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as **it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come**. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For **to this end we toil and strive**, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (ESV)

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

We receive the spirit by getting Jesus' words into us, believing them and obeying them. Feeding on them, we get Jesus' spirit and life into us:

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work**. (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

We can repent from sin as an act of obedient faith to God:

Jeremiah 4:4 - **Circumcise yourselves to the LORD**; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 10:16-17 - Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:30-32 - Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

It's simultaneous:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

And God helps us to do that. God changes our heart to love Him, so that we will live:

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And **the LORD your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your offspring, so that you will **love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.** (ESV)

I believe that as we believe and obey Jesus, God sends His Spirit to help us to obey Him.

In other words, believing the gospel and trusting repentance leads to getting born-again of the Spirit.

I just want to illustrate how people who hear, believe and do are trusting of Jesus. And we gotta trust Jesus (Isaiah 12:2, Hebrews 12:2). We should believe Him and obey Him - not one without the other. Believers who are not obeyers are like people who only turn left. 'Obeyers' who are not believers are like people who only turn right. People who believe and obey when they hear any of Jesus' teachings including commandments are like people who take the straight and narrow. Jesus commanded us to trust in Him so if we hear His word to trust in Him and we do trust in Him we have become obedient. I think we're supposed to continue to trust Jesus, and get off the milk and onto the solid food as Hebrews describes. We have to abide in Jesus' teachings.

Hebrews 5:14 - But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (ESV)

I believe that belief and obedience to Jesus naturally comes **before** being born-again of the Spirit, but that obedience is much easier **after** being born-again of the Spirit, because this is the way it happened with me, and it's also scriptural.

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will **keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,** whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

3.9.1 Marriage should not become idolatry

The Hebrew has two words for 'helper'. The word which the greek in **John 14** refers to I believe is the Saviour one:

1

2 savior, deliverer, helper, saviour

But the Hebrew for helper in **Genesis 2:18** is not the 'saviour' but the assistant!:¹

1

2 assistant, aide, helper, second

Genesis 2:18 - Then the Lord (H3068 Yhovah) God (H430 'elohiyim) said (H559 'amar), "It is not good (H2896 towb) for the man (H120 'adam) to be alone (H905 bad); I will make (H6213 'asah) him a helper (H5828 'ezer) suitable (H5048 neged) for him."

3.10 Come to love God, loving Jesus and keeping Jesus' word, be known by God, be brought to God and come to know God

John 14:23 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

Galatians 4:8-9 - Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I John 4:8 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (ESV)

John 8:19 - They said to him therefore, Where is your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also. (ESV)

3.10.1 The freedom of knowledge of the truth involves serving and obeying God and putting sin to death

John 8:31-36 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

Romans 6:17-23 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

3.11 Follow Jesus to be brought to God, arrive at the knowledge of the Truth and don't go on sinning

We must be sound in the faith. We must seek to bear our load. We should be doing the will of God. We must be obedient to Jesus.

We should pray for all people that they come to the knowledge of the Truth.

I Timothy 2:1-4 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** (ESV)

We should pursue:

- practicing righteousness

- holiness, putting sin to death
- loving our neighbour

II Timothy 2:20-26 - Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (ESV)

We should continue in what we have learned and firmly believed and abide in the teachings of Christ, coming into agreement with His sound words, and endeavouring to keep His commandments:

II Timothy 3:1-17 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:1-4 - I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (ESV)

I Timothy 6:3-5 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. (ESV)

Philippians 2:12-16 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling

or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Titus 1:1-16 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their **knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life**, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

I John 4:8 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (ESV)

We should not be an adversary, but we should obey the gospel of Jesus and endeavour to put sin to death and to practice righteousness and to love our family in Christ, while holding faith in Jesus:

Hebrews 10:23-31 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to **love and good works**, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. **For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.** Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, Vengeance is mine; I will repay. And again, The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (ESV)

3.12 The importance of loving one another

Believing Jesus, having the love of God within us, loving Father God, and loving one another who are children of God, all should be true together:

John 5:37-42 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. (ESV)

We come to Jesus by faith obeying Him from the heart:

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Matthew 14:28-29 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. (ESV)

Those who trust Jesus and believe Jesus is the Son of God, now being far more obedient to God, cheerfully obey His commandments rather than find them difficult (for example: they find it unburdensome to act like the good Samaritan):

I John 5:1-3 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when **we love God and obey his commandments**. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

We don't justify ourselves. The lawyer here was desiring to justify himself. God is the justifier. Jesus explains that the one who proved to be a neighbour is the one who showed compassion for and took care of the helpless person, taking care of them with mercy:

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.** But he, *desiring to justify himself*, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, **he had compassion.** He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, **Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.** Which of these three, do you think, *proved to be a neighbor* to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, **The one who showed him mercy.** And Jesus said to him, **You go, and do likewise.** (ESV)

Romans 3:26 - It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just **and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

Also being true together with believing Jesus Christ is obeying His commandments, and being obedient to Him. The way I read the following is, "Whoever trusts that Jesus is the Son of God overcomes the world through their believing, obedient faith and God's commandments are no longer burdensome to them":

I John 5:4-5 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (ESV)

Their heart is purified through faith, believing in and obeying Jesus, and now they love God and they love the children of God:

I John 4:7-17 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. *By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.* (ESV)

To get close to us we must accept God's love and love God back:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

In order to know God we must love one another in the way that God has loved us:

I John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

3.13 The gospel, baptism and faith alone and receiving the Holy Spirit

If Jesus we can be saved in a certain way, then we can be saved by it, but we are meant to continue in faith and obedience. I convinced that baptism saves.

3.13.1 The gospel

I Corinthians 15:1-4 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (ESV)

3.13.2 Scriptures supporting faith without / before baptism, for example

Acts 13:38-39 - Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. (ESV)

Acts 15:7-11 - And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will. (ESV)

Acts 16:30-34 - Then he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. (ESV)

3.13.3 Keep in mind, this is the same Peter referred to

Received the Holy Spirit without water baptism by faith alone, but continued in obedience:

Acts 10:42-45 - And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. (ESV)

Acts 10:46-48 - For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days. (ESV)

By repentance and obedience, baptised and after that receive the Holy Spirit:

Acts 2:38 - And Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Be baptised and wash away your sins calling on his name:

Acts 22:16-18 - And now why do you wait? **Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.** When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw him saying to me, Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me. (ESV)

Baptism saves:

I Peter 3:21-22 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (ESV)

I believe that baptism also refers to being baptised into Jesus' death, spiritually, not merely the water baptism ritual.

newadvent.org: CHURCH FATHERS: The First Apology {St. Justin Martyr} I will also relate the manner in which we dedicated ourselves to God when we had been made new through Christ; lest, if we omit this, we seem to be unfair in the explanation we are making. As many as are persuaded and believe that what we teach and say is true, and undertake to be able to live accordingly, are instructed to pray and to entreat God with fasting, for the remission of their sins that are past, we praying and fasting with them. Then they are brought by us where there is water, and are regenerated in the same manner in which we were ourselves regenerated. For, in the name of God, the Father and Lord of the universe, and of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, they then receive the washing with water. For Christ also said, "Unless you be born again, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." John 3:5 Now, that it is impossible for those who have once been born to enter into their mothers' wombs, is manifest to all. And how those who

have sinned and repent shall escape their sins, is declared by Esaias the prophet, as I wrote above; he thus speaks: "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from your souls; learn to do well; judge the fatherless, and plead for the widow: and come and let us reason together, says the Lord. And though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white like wool; and though they be as crimson, I will make them white as snow. But if you refuse and rebel, the sword shall devour you: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it." Isaiah 1:16-20

God also instructs us to turn away from doing evil, and do good. We are commanded to continue in faith and obedience. If we refuse and rebel, the sword shall devour you, God says.

3.13.4 Received the Holy Spirit with the laying of hands

Acts 8:5-17 - Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city. But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the power of God that is called Great. And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

3.14 Receiving the Holy Spirit

So we must receive the Holy Spirit.

I learned a lot from John Piper about this today. I really affirm this message:

- youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit

I also really affirm Derek Prince here:

- youtube.com: Accept the Holy Spirit - Derek Prince Sermon

When the following says "they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**", I'm sure this is baptism in water. It's also apparent that a person may receive the Holy Spirit at the time they believed, and the passage also seems to suggest that believing alongside being baptized in water, the person is expected to receive the Holy Spirit:

Acts 19:1-6 - And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, **Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?** And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. And he said, Into what then were you baptized? They said, Into John's baptism. And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. On hearing this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. (ESV)

Again, these people were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus, but they hadn't yet received the Holy Spirit. So the point I'd like to make is that there may be some delay, or another vector for receiving the Holy Spirit, such as through the hands of the Apostles:

Acts 8:14-17 - Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

For me it was years after being baptised in water that I was born-again of the Spirit, and being born-again of the Spirit happened shortly after I had begun seeking God in truth, and repenting from sin.

I think this guy puts it well here:

- youtube.com: There Is No Baptism In The Holy Spirit Without Repentance | Bishop Macedo Meditation
@time: 15 min 19 sec

1 I believe that this answers the
2 questions of many people that say,
3 "Oh, I've bent over backwards to receive the
4 Holy Spirit and I still don't have Him.
5 I've been the church for 30, 50 years, I'm
6 in the church for 47 years and I still
7 haven't received the Holy Spirit."
8
9 Why? because you haven't repented. You have
10 not repented. And if you are waiting to feel
11 something in order to repent you never
12 repent because it doesn't depend on a
13 feeling.
14
15 ...
16
17 But they do not make the decision to
18 abandon their old life. The same thing,
19 you get married but you don't want to
20 stop being single, you want to continue
21 acting as though you are single. Of
22 course your marriage won't work - it's a
23 pretense, it's fake.

Jesus gives both repentance and forgiveness:

Acts 5:31-32 - God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Stephen stressed the importance of being **circumcised in the heart** (something that they should have been able to be) and in the same sentence implies that to be uncircumcised in heart is to resist the Holy Spirit:

Acts 7:51-53 - **You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit.** As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it. (ESV)

It's totally fair to say that anybody should be able to circumcise themselves to the LORD, and that makes a person a Jew inwardly. We must repent in this way:

Jeremiah 4:4 - Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds. (ESV)

Romans 2:29 - But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. (ESV)

Ruth 1:15-17 - And she said, See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law. But Ruth said, Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you. (ESV)

I know I had begun to repent according to the 10 commandments even a year in advance of being born-again of the Spirit in an effort to seek God and I got born-again.

It's been commanded all the way back here in Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 10:12-17 - And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to **keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD**, which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. **Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.** For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (ESV)

Simon the magician had believed and been baptized but he needed to repent from sin so that his heart was right before God. Just like Simon, we must confess and forsake sin, and receive the love of the truth in our heart to be saved:

Acts 8:13-23 - Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him, May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! **You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent,** therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in **the bond of iniquity.** (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

3.14.1 Water baptism as an appeal to God

Water baptism is an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I think baptism of water is an **appeal** to God and identifying oneself into Christ's death and resurrection but the sacrament **maybe** is not strictly required to be saved (as far as I understand).

I Peter 3:21 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (ESV)

3.14.2 We need are sealed with the Holy Spirit through accepting the truth of the good news of Jesus and God's Living Word works in us to save us

youtube.com: How Do I Know If the Holy Spirit Is in Me?

We are sealed when we give our heart to Jesus in believing (trusting) in Him. Holy Spirit is given to us in our hearts:

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:21-22 - And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (ESV)

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (ESV)

The word of God works in us as we believe and trust Jesus, and are obedient to Jesus:

I Thessalonians 2:13 - And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. (ESV)

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

God works in us by His transforming grace as we work:

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good **that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ**, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and **his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.** (ESV)

It's the power to be changed from doing evil deeds to walking in obedience and love to God, in a relationship with God:

Colossians 1:21-23 - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (ESV)

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (ESV)

3.14.3 We need to be born-again and we want to be filled with and baptised by the Holy Spirit

It's natural to water baptize a person after they believe:

Acts 8:36-38 - And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized? And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. (ESV)

Also, the Lord Jesus Himself baptized Gentile believers in the Holy Spirit, people who were not yet baptised in water:

Acts 10:44-48 - While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, **Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days. (ESV)

Matthew 3:11 - I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (ESV)

Interlinear Bible biblehub.com 3-11.htm: Matthew 3:11 Interlinear

We need to be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God:

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

And as it happened for me, the water baptism was a precursor to being born-again of the Spirit spontaneously years later and my Holy Spirit baptism happened shortly after being born-again of the spirit.

Therefore, I see water baptism as firstly to be baptized into Jesus Christ's name, in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and as an appeal to God for a good conscience through the death and resurrection of Jesus, appealing also to be born-again of the Spirit and to receive the Holy Spirit baptism.

And begin born-again of the Spirit and receiving the Holy Spirit helps us to obey God.

I Corinthians 2:14 - The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (ESV)

John 3:3-5 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

3.14.4 The Holy Spirit may teach us even before He is *in* us, by helping us as He dwells *with* us

John 14:16-21 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever, even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

3.15 Our will should be for God's will to be done, and to will to do God's will

We may ask God for a willing spirit:

Psalms 51:10-12 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a **willing** spirit. (ESV)

Obedience is good:

Psalms 40:6-8 - Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: **I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.** (ESV)

I believe that eventually our own will lines up with God's will for us, and I believe that His will is that we will to do His will, and that we will for His will to be done. So I believe we should desire both to do His will as God has revealed to us through the Scriptures, and also to desire that God's will be done over our own will, but that our will may become His will.

Song So Will I {100 Billion X} - Hillsong Worship - YouTube

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 26:42 - Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done. (ESV)

I Peter 3:17 - For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (ESV)

I Peter 4:19 - Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that **by testing** you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and **acceptable** and perfect. (ESV)

What God does by way of initiative and what we do as a response is inextricably woven together [to the point where our obedience and God's work may be indistinguishable]. God turns our enmity to love and our disbelief to faith:

Sermon Born Again - Alistair Begg, Parkside Church - YouTube @time: 34 min 12 sec

Philippians 2:13 - for it is **God who works in you, both to will and to work** for his good pleasure. (ESV)

1 Clem 33:8 Seeing then that we have this pattern, let us conform ourselves with all diligence to His will; let us with all our strength work the work of righteousness.

Paul toils, struggling with all God's energy that God works powerfully within him:

Colossians 1:29 - For this **I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.** (ESV)

Father God in Jesus was also doing His work through Jesus:

John 14:10 - Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. (NASB)

Here it is further echoed by Paul that though these people were acting of their own free will, they were doing God's will:

Paul commands giving oneself to others by the will of God (their will was doing God's will):

II Corinthians 8:3-5 - For they gave *according to their means*, as I can testify, and *beyond their means, of their own free will*, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and **then by the will of God to us.** (ESV)

Paul commands both desiring to do the will of God, and then encourages to complete the work they desire to do, but says that **if the will (obedience of heart) is there, it is acceptable** according to what a person has:

II Corinthians 8:10-12 - And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your **readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it** out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. (ESV)

Duty and free will are not mutually exclusive:

Philemon 1:13-14 - I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. (ESV)

Obeying Jesus', keeping Jesus' commandments and walking by the Spirit are not mutually exclusive. In fact, it's very important to realise that, having gone from serving things that are not God to serving God, serving Jesus, to be walking in obedience to Jesus **is** to be walking by the Spirit:

John 6:63-64 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) (ESV)

In "The Blazing Center: Part 3 - YouTube" John Piper says, "Maybe my will could correspond to God's will so I could do His will and it would be my will?!" I agree with him.

And through our obedience to Jesus we are saved. The Bible is clear - a works-based gospel based on God working through us saves:

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

It's actually a faith-based gospel, and the works are a gift. So believing, obedient faith comes first and God works in us to change our heart to be transformed to love in the likeness of Jesus:

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

Jesus can work in a person to bring them to belief in Him.

When you obey Jesus' commandments, Jesus may be working in you, and you may arrive at belief.

Psalms 127:1 - Unless the LORD (3068. Yhv - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (ESV)

Matthew 7:24 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

Can a person be saved through:

- reading their Bible, or
- listening to the word of Christ?

There are people who would say that a person is not saved through obedience to the gospel, but by making that claim they are contradicting many scriptures:

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Like the:

- Israelites walking through the Red Sea, or
- Noah building the ark, or
- The lame man standing up to be healed, or
- Peter allowing Jesus to wash his feet

Obedience to the gospel leads to eternal salvation. I believe obedience should arrive at belief, and belief should yield obedience, and **knowledge**.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteúo, pepisteukotas) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

Obeying Jesus is quite simply one aspect of having faith in Jesus.

Jesus is the vine. We can do nothing without Jesus working through us. We just have to be a believing, willing, obedient vessel for Him:

John 15:4 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (ESV)

That obedience may, for example, look like proclaiming the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

Luke 8:39 - Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him. (ESV)

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

Therefore, we teach people to both believe and to obey the Gospel. When we obey Jesus' commandments it's actually Jesus working in and through us. We want Jesus to be able to carry out work in us, so we obey Him - our will and God's will come into alignment when we obey Jesus' commandments.

In Christ Jesus, through faith in Him (through trusting Him, believing Him, believing in Him and obeying Him), we have Jesus as our righteousness, and sanctification and redemption:

I Corinthians 1:30 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Be Thou My Vision - Audrey Assad

Believing in your heart is an initial act of obedience to Christ and to Christ's Law before continuing in the teaching of Christ. If we believe in Him we have obeyed Him, but belief doesn't end there:

John 14:1 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe (G4100 pisteuo) in God, believe (G4100 pisteuo) also in Me. (NASB)

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

And our obedience is not burdensome:

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

We receive the spirit by getting Jesus' words into us, believing them and obeying them. Feeding on them, we get Jesus' spirit and life into us:

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

We rest in believing what Jesus has accomplished on our behalf, but our heart should have become obedient to Jesus.

We don't claim perfect obedience, but God also helps us and supports us:

Isaiah 64:4 - From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. (ESV)

Also, waiting on the LORD our strength is renewed:

Isaiah 40:31 - but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (ESV)

It's crucial to keep Jesus Christ's commandments:

I John 3:20-24 - for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Work flowing from obedience is still totally by grace because we needed Jesus to obey God perfectly first! We must still obey Jesus.

II Timothy 1:6-14 - For this reason I remind you to fan into flame **the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands**, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, **not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began**, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. **Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.** (ESV)

Believing in Jesus should result in continued loving obedience to Jesus (following Jesus), and doing the work which is similar to the work that Jesus did:

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

I think works that we can expect to come from believers in Jesus are:

- helping to bring about the obedience of faith
- loving selflessly while not breaking faith with God

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

The Apostle John also commands us to:

- follow Jesus' commandment to believe in the name of God's Son Jesus Christ, and
- love one another just as He commanded us.

1 John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Whoever keeps (5083. *téreó*) His **commandments** (plural) abides in Jesus, and Jesus in them. Yes, so I think we must believe Jesus and obey Him:

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

John 14:10-15 - Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do**; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

John 4:32-34 - But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. So the disciples said to one another, Has anyone brought him something to eat? Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (ESV)

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith** — (ESV)

Romans 15:17-18 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to **obedience—by word and deed**,

Like Jesus, we should do the will of God:

Hebrews 10:7 - Then I said, Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book. (ESV)

3.15.1 Being filled with the Holy Spirit

- Being a servant of God is a likely precursor to being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - **Acts 5:32** - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)
- Speaking the word of God with boldness is a sure sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Saying one's own belongings are not our own [but belong to God] is a sure sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Giving to others freely to relieve the burdens of others is a another sure sign.
 - * **Acts 2:45** - And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (ESV)
 - **Job 1:21** - And he said, Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. (ESV)
 - **Romans 11:36** - For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (ESV)

Acts 4:24-35 - And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed— for truly in this city there were gathered together against your **holy servant Jesus**, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your **servants** to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness**. Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and **no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common**. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (ESV)

1 Clem 2:1 And ye were all lowly in mind and free from arrogance, yielding rather than claiming submission, more glad to give than to receive, and content with the provisions which God supplieth. And giving heed unto His words, ye laid them up diligently in your hearts, and His sufferings were before your eyes.

1 Clem 2:2 Thus a profound and rich peace was given to all, and an insatiable desire of doing good. **An abundant outpouring also of the Holy Spirit fell upon all;**

3.16 In God's mercy, we come to obedient faith and come into Christ Jesus

"At one time disobedient..." means we are brought to obedience. Therefore, God's mercy is that we become obedient:

Romans 11:30-32 - Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For **God has consigned all to disobedience (543. apeitheia - willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience)**, that he may have mercy on all. (ESV)

Mercy is so that we can be forgiven and change our ways:

John 8:11 - She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more. (ESV)

Song King of Kings {Lyric Video} - Hillsong Worship - YouTube

3.16.1 In Christ Jesus, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin

We trust that our sin is covered by Jesus Christ's blood, as we abide in Him through belief and obedience:

Romans 4:5-8 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. (ESV)

Revelation of John 1:4-6 - John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has **freed us from our sins by his blood** and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

In Jesus Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, and are transferred into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

As we walk in the light, as He is in the light, that is in the Truth, walking in, believing, professing and obeying Jesus Christ in Truth, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin:

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

We are sanctified in the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ, and for sprinkling with His blood:

I Peter 1:2 - according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:22 - This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:9-14 - then he added, Behold, I have come to do your will. He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For **by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.** (ESV)

1 Clem 50:1 Ye see, dearly beloved, how great and marvelous a thing is love, and there is no declaring its perfection.

I John 4:12 - No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

I John 4:16-21 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment,** because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

1 Clem 50:4 Blessed were we, dearly beloved, if we should be **doing the commandments of God in concord of love, to the end that our sins may through love be forgiven us.**

1 Clem 50:5 For it is written; Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall impute no sin, neither is guile in his mouth.

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

We are ransomed, and cleaned up by God:

I Peter 1:18-19 - knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

The blood of Jesus secures an eternal redemption:

Hebrews 9:11-15 - But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an **eternal redemption**. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (ESV)

The eternal redemption is in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9-10 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

3.17 Obedience is absolutely within our ability

God's commandments are not too difficult to follow.

We may ask God for a willing spirit:

Psalms 51:10-12 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a **willing** spirit. (ESV)

Love the LORD your God:

Deuteronomy 30:10-11 - **when you obey** the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, **when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul**. For **this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.** (ESV)

Serve God:

Joshua 22:5 - Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to **love the LORD your God**, and to **walk in all his ways** and to **keep his commandments** and to **cling to him** and to **serve him with all your heart and with all your soul**. (ESV)

Love God [from the heart and soul] so that we may live:

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the **LORD your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your offspring, so that you will **love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.** (ESV)

To love your neighbour as yourself means forgiving them too, and remember that Jesus forgave us. It also means to not take vengeance (Christ's law includes not rendering evil for evil):

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

Jesus' commandments us to even love one another, anyone around you, with selfless love:

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

And the Apostle John echos that the commandment is still extremely important:

II John 1:5-6 - And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. (ESV)

Loving our neighbour as ourself should look like showing merciful love to those around you:

Luke 10:29-37 - But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, You go, and do likewise. (ESV)

We should be loving our neighbour continually:

John 13:1 - Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.** (ESV)

Mark 12:30-31 - And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. (ESV)

Mark 12:32-34 - And the scribe said to him, You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, You are not far from the kingdom of God. And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions. (ESV)

We are supposed to fulfill the Royal Law, even after having received forgiveness:

James 2:1 - My brothers, show no partiality **as you hold the faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)

James 2:8-9 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (ESV)

[youtube.com: John Piper and Tim Keller Wrestle with Sanctification {@desiringGod}](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfjwvXWzqA) @time: 2 min 9 sec

I think Walther Marshall's The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification says it this way, that "you need the comforts of the Gospel in order to fulfill the law". So that's pretty much what I would say too.

The same way that Jesus loved, selflessly:

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1Clement 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

Loving one another includes forgiving one another. Forgiving others means not holding a grudge:

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

We should aim to fulfill these great commandments while being merciful:

James 2:11-13 - For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (ESV)

It's perfect self-humbling obedience without committing sin which only Jesus Christ managed to reach, was able to reach and was destined to reach:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

We come to having obedient faith in God through obedient faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ obeyed Father God perfectly, and sinners put Him to death, and He became the source of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him:

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

John 1:29 - The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (ESV)

3.17.1 Observing Jesus, continuing to believe in Him and believe His words and abide in His word, we will live forever

We should be led into the knowledge of the Truth:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

We should come into a relationship with Jesus Christ and with Father God:

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God, is not condemned. But the person who is not believing in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God is condemned already:

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

There is always more chances to believe:

Romans 11:23-24 - And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. (ESV)

In believing we have eternal life, but we need to continue in obedience to Jesus Christ or will not see life, so there should be a change of behaviour. We should have changed to serve God:

youtube.com: Romans 16 19 Bob Fitts {@isbaptist} Be excellent in what is good; Be innocent of evil; Be excellent in what is good; Be innocent of evil; [Chorus:]; And the God of Peace will soon crush Satan; God will crush him underneath your feet!

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Even if "apeitheó" is better translated to "not be persuaded", trusting in Jesus Christ is still obedience. Unless you believe that trusting in Jesus is disobedience, which it is not. It's obedient to trust in Jesus because He commanded it in John 14:1. They're not separate things. A heart that is persuaded to trust Jesus is an obedient heart:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (*pisteuōn*): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.** As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?** So we see that **they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us**; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable* / *correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve**. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is our Lord and Teacher - that means we believe and obey Him:

John 13:13-14 - You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (ESV)

If you hear Jesus' word and believe Father God, then you have eternal life, and don't come into judgement. I don't doubt it. We must continue trusting. But the enemy will certainly try to condemn the person after they are born-again.

Trusting Jesus' words we do not come into judgement, but change direction, and instead our destiny is life eternal. We do not come into judgement. Jesus is the judge of that:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word (**191. akouó**) and believes (**4100. pisteuó**) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed (**3327. metabain**) from death to life. (ESV)

I think John 5:24 reads that the one who is trusting the words spoken through Jesus, trusting God, trusting Jesus is holds/possesses eternal life and has passed/is passing/passes from death into life.

2064. erchomai to come, go

3327. metabain to pass over, withdraw, depart

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (KJV)

If we actually believe Jesus Christ is who He says He is, the Son of God, Messiah, we are not condemned. We're never condemned if we are believing in Jesus Christ, Son of God:

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (ESV)

If you look upon Jesus Christ and believe in Him, you should have eternal life:

John 6:40-44 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. They said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, I have come down from heaven? Jesus answered them, Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

John 6:47-51 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. (ESV)

John 6:53-58 - So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:7-10 - In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

I think Jesus in His resurrection body still counts as Jesus, the Word of God, become flesh. I think it's still in the days of His flesh:

Luke 24:39 - See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. (ESV)

Thomas looked upon the resurrected Jesus:

John 20:27-29 - Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. (ESV)

We can say we have faith in Jesus before we see Him:

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (ESV)

We can even love Him before seeing Him:

I Peter 1:8 - Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (ESV)

There is something miraculous about having seen God. Upon seeing Him, we must have come to the point where we have stoppen sinning and where we agape-love our family in Christ:

III John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

No-one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him:

I John 3:6 - No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:34 - Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (ESV)

If we don't love our family in Christ then we have not even seen Jesus:

III John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

So it is the will of Father God that those who have seen Jesus Christ, Son of God, and have faith in Him should have eternal life and Jesus will raise them on the last day, and having seen Him means that we would be loving our family in Christ and and put a stop to committing sin:

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:7-10 - In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

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I John 4:20-21 - If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

Eternal life is given to anyone who believes in Him. I guess there are simply some things I wont understand fully, but I do believe it. I trust in God, and lean not on my own understanding. I believe Jesus' words that are written in the Scriptures:

John 6:47 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. (ESV)

I John 2:27 - But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. (ESV)

I John 2:24 - Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. (ESV)

God commanded eternal life for those who believe: God's word never comes back void:

Isaiah 55:11 - so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (ESV)

In this current time (world) we may receive more than we lose for the sake of the kingdom, and eternal life is also received in the age to come:

Luke 18:29-30 - And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and **in the age to come eternal life.** (ESV)

I do not affirm all religions. But I affirm **Romans 10:9**. I affirm that individual people are saved through belief and I think it should be true belief that's in the heart:

Romans 10:9 - because, if you confess (G3670 homologēsēs, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (ESV)

What is meant by "good person"? Someone who "out of his good treasure brings forth good". So we should treasure Jesus Christ. We need faith in order to please God. And Jesus has to be our #1 agape love. And we should make spiritual sacrifices that are pleasing to God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bishop Mari here uses the word "assume", probably because it's not possible to change a bad person into a good person without being made into a living one. When Bishop Mari uses the word "good", it's just to try help people who think they know what "good" means understand a point of difference between Jesus and perhaps some other "role models". I take it that Mari is not using it here in the "only God is good sense", but rather trying to explain a point about how God makes a dead person into a living person and noone else does that:

youtube.com: Questions & Answers | Bishop Mari Emmanuel | ? {@SacredScripts} @time: 19 min 12 sec

Let's **assume** this for a moment, the ultimate these leaders could have done to humanity [is] change a bad person into a good person. Let's say they brought some good values and morals and ethics and principles of life, the ultimate they could have done a favor to the human race was one thing: change a bad person into a good person. The love of my life Jesus Christ of Nazareth did not [merely] come to change a bad person into a good person, He came to change a **dead** person into a **living** one.

In this there is no comparison. It is only Jesus Christ of Nazareth as a human being on the face of this Earth, He is the only human who dared to claim this statement and this truth. He said, "He who hears My word and believeth in My word, even if he dies he shall live. But he who takes My body and drinks My blood will live in me, forever. I am the life and the resurrection.

We are supposed to practice righteousness, and Jesus did come to redeem us, to make us alive together with Him, to sanctify us, so that we do practice good:

I Peter 3:9-17 - Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and

his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (ESV)

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

Matthew 12:33 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. (ESV)

I Peter 2:4-5 - As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer **spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ**. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Matthew 12:35 - The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. (ESV)

God is good. Father God is good. The Son of God is good. Holy Spirit is good. Imitate good:

Mark 10:18 - And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. (ESV)

III John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

Luke 6:35-36 - But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

We should definitely confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus to others:

Luke 12:8-9 - And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. (ESV)

Everything is in subjection to Jesus, God has left nothing outside Jesus' control. In the grand scheme of things, Satan is a defeated foe. However, we also face a battle against the devil, which Jesus helps us with:

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:14-18 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (ESV)

And also satan will be defeated in this eschatological sense:

Revelation of John 12:10-11 - And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And **they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony**, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (ESV)

From our perspective it may look like things are **still being brought into subjection to Him**. It still looks that way to me:

Ephesians 1:22 - And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

Hebrews 2:5-8 - Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting **everything in subjection to him**, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

Everything is put in subjection under Jesus and in subjection under Father God:

I Corinthians 15:24-28 - Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put **all his enemies under his feet**. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death**. For God has put all things in subjection under his feet. But when it says, all things are put in subjection, it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Including our own mortal bodies!

Philippians 3:21 - who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

Consider that in truthfully confessing that Jesus is Lord, that person has faith **in** Jesus, and in believing in their heart that God raised Him from the dead, that person has faith **in** God even in the matter that Jesus was resurrected, even for our justification. So it's faith not only in the finished work of Christ on the cross, but faith in Jesus Himself.

That's important in my opinion because we must trust Jesus Himself to follow Him, to love Him, to keep His words, to keep His commandments, to keep our eyes on Him, to abide by His teaching.

youtube.com: John Piper - Saved Forever @time: 9 min 58 sec Salvation is not static, as though I did something once to get saved (I believed), and God did something once to save me (He sent Jesus to die and rise from the dead) and that's all there is to it. Now this verse is one screaming announcement **that is not all there is to it** and what I want to try to do in these last moments is take a Sunday school understanding that's true that simple past, "I believe, He died, I'm saved - period" and grow it into biblical proportions with a verse like Hebrews 7:25 because Hebrews 7:25 says there is not only more that Jesus did, there is more that you do as well. What Jesus does is go on praying for you, interceding for you, coming between you and the Father and making a case for you, and standing up for you.

And out of the heart should flow rivers of living water. Now that re-emphasises that belief should be in the heart:

John 7:38 - Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (ESV)

Walk as an imitator of Christ:

Philippians 3:17-18 - Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:1 - Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (ESV)

We must be imitators of Christ Jesus. See what Paul is doing as an example of imitating Christ. We repent from sin, we do what God says, we are accountable to God with His precepts and are doers of His commandments, we forgive others as we've been forgiven and we love others as we've been loved, and we have our minds set on heavenly things and the promises of God. Our eschatological beliefs should not instill fear in us to forsake faith, obedience, love and hope in Jesus:

Philippians 3:12-21 - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as **enemies of the cross of Christ**. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with **minds set on earthly things**. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

Remember the toilet paper shortage of 2020, and during the COVID outbreak, how people greedily bought up all the toilet paper and hoarded food and supplies. How people are so quick to think of self-preservation.

Now consider the "stock up on food" to be prepared mindset when it comes to end times stuff. It can easily become fear and panic and about self-preservation. This is not the way Christians are supposed to think, even in an end-times scenario. I think the mindset of taking care of dependents and eating cheaply to have something to give to others is a good mindset but never at the expense of maintaining Christ's commandments.

Some time in 2022, I believe, after I was born-again, I had listened to a dream (that in retrospect was untrustworthy and clearly not from God), and I had taken it as a warning to others to "stock up on food". I simply wanted other people to be safe and so I had put it into a blog article for others to be prepared so I had recorded this dream in a blog article. In retrospect, I believe that it was the enemy trying to stop me from giving to people in need and trying to make me walk out of step with Jesus' commandments. God forgive me. Everything was so rushed after I was born-again.

Thankfully, I had not forsaken the fear of God, and was able to be corrected, and was so in love with Jesus' commandments that I kept trying to follow them, and please Jesus. That would be my advice. It's so important:

Matthew 7:24 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

Do not be an enemy of the cross of Christ, submit to the righteousness of God - we needed Jehovah God, Father of Jesus Christ, to pay for our sin - and we must imitate Christ, passing forward Christ's love and forgiving as we have been forgiven, and repenting from sin:

Hebrews 13:7 - Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. (ESV)

III John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

Jude 1:4 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jude 1:4 - For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

3.17.2 We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

It's God's grace that enables us to be saved through faith. While we are saved exercising obedient, trusting, believing faith, Paul says it was actually God's doing:

Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (ESV)

Just because we're gifted repentance to life, that doesn't mean that to go ahead and obediently repent makes the gift of repentance no longer a gift!

Acts 11:18 - When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.

There are varying amounts of grace given to each person according to mercy, need or stewardship:

Romans 12:6-8 - Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (ESV)

Ephesians 3:2 - assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, (ESV)

Ephesians 4:7 - But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. (ESV)

Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (ESV)

I Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: (ESV)

I Corinthians 12:7-11 - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. (ESV)

We can still ask for more grace when we are in need:

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

God gives grace to the humble (not the self-righteous). That is true. But recognising your own sin and calling it sin is humility. And in wanting to turn from it, God may give grace to do so:

James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

Sermon The Heart of the Gospel - YouTube

We believe on Jesus Christ and receive eternal life, and we are saved through Jesus Christ. We see that Jesus Christ obeyed God perfectly and He is the light. We have our hope on Jesus to save us when we believe on Him. We should trust Jesus enough to obey His commandments when we are presented with opportunities to glorify God with our actions. God works through us as we obey Jesus.

John 3:16-19 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

Romans 13:10-11 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. (ESV)

We must hear the words of God. If we hear them then we are of God. I know I hear them. If we keep Jesus' word (obey Jesus) we will not see death:

John 8:47 - Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

John 8:51 - Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone **keeps my word**, he will never see death. (ESV)

To **keep Jesus' word** means to hear them and to obey:

Proverbs 7:1-3 - My son, **keep my words** and treasure up my commandments with you; **keep my commandments** and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. (ESV)

Keeping means, not only having them but also **keeping, obeying** them:

John 14:21-24 - Whoever **has my commandments and keeps them**, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. (ESV)

Lord of Eternity - Fernando Ortega (Live) Lord of Eternity; Blessed is the man; Who walks in Your favor; Who loves all Your words; And hides them like treasure; In the darkest place; Of his desperate heart, They are a light; A strong, sure light.

Essentially, we must believe Jesus. We must not reject Jesus. We must receive Jesus' words. We must be teachable by Jesus:

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

Jesus comes to dwell in our hearts through faith, His spirit in our inner being, as we are rooted and grounded in love:

Ephesians 3:14-21 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to **know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge**, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

John 8:55 - But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. (ESV)

We are not condemned if we believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. That's really good news!:

John 3:18 - **Whoever believes in him is not condemned**, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

AMEN!!

Trusting Jesus' words we do not come into judgement, but change direction, and instead our destiny is life eternal. We do not come into judgement. Jesus is the judge of that:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word (**191. akouó**) and believes (**4100. pisteuó**) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed (**3327. metabain**) from death to life. (ESV)

I think John 5:24 reads that the one who is trusting the words spoken through Jesus, trusting God, trusting Jesus is holds/possesses eternal life and has passed/is passing/passes from death into life.

2064. erchomai to come, go

3327. metabain to pass over, withdraw, depart

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (KJV)

AMEN!!

II Timothy 2:11 - The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; (ESV)

Justification comes through through the righteousness of living by faith:

Habakkuk 2:4 - Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. (ESV)

We are justified by His grace as a free gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, received by [living by] faith:

Romans 3:21-25 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**, whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, to be **received by faith**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (ESV)

It's faith in God through faith in Jesus Christ, the same Jesus Christ who atoned for our sin. We go from serving sin to serving God through serving Jesus:

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

We should give up our idols from the heart:

Luke 11:39-41 - And the Lord said to him, Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. (ESV)

Mark 10:21-23 - And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. **Disheartened** by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! (ESV)

Faith in the blood of Jesus (passion and death and resurrection of Christ) seems somehow linked to the redemption that is in Christ which we are partakers of:

Romans 10:10 - For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

Romans 3:21-24 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are **justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**, (ESV)

Romans 4:20-25 - No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness. But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and **raised for our justification**. (ESV) **Romans 5:1** - Therefore, since **we have been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Romans 5:9 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (ESV)

Even the new believer is not condemned:

I Corinthians 3:1 - But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. (ESV)

And as we know, no-one in Christ is condemned:

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

youtube.com: God Is Our Savior from What? 1 Timothy 1:1-2, Part 2 @time: 5 min 20 sec There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. This was the main problem.

...

The main problem is God's response to sin is a legal and just and holy condemnation - we must escape this. And in Christ Jesus we are saved from condemnation.

Romans 5:9 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (ESV)

We must continue in our faith. We must continue to believe Jesus and trust in Jesus:

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuó, pepisteukotas) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

I believe that we are saved not because of our own merit, but, still, obedience to the Gospel leads to righteousness which leads to salvation:

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

John 14:15-16 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (ESV)

John 15:26 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **he will bear witness about me.** (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:7-10 - for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but **share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling**, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, (ESV)

The Apostles were working with Christ. I believe the Apostles also here are exhorting believers to work with Christ to receive the grace of God. The Apostles also practiced what they preached. OK, so imagine a situation where someone is just being so irrationally abusive, or so irrationally hateful and unloving towards people. It might be worth picturing that person as Jesus and Jesus putting Himself in that situation so that you can carry out His commandments and demonstrate God's love towards them. It might also be worth picturing that person as someone who God has set before you to love them and so pass forward the love of God, and perhaps lead them to Jesus. God **bought** that opportunity for you to love them, and He also trust you with it, as you trust His commandments. He puts us in the position of being able to demonstrate the love of God, and He entrusts you with it, to show that person the love of God, for their sake, and for Jesus' sake, and for your sake. That's the freedom which Jesus bought for us. Imagine you want to be able to live-out Jesus' commandments and you feel like they're just so challenging or daunting, or impossible. Fulfilling Christ's law is not impossible. All things are possible with God. And to fulfill the law of Christ is what Paul challenged us to do.

Well, Jesus bought for us the ability to live out His commandments, and live out Father God's commandments to us authentically and without fear of punishment.

Yes, we make mistakes, but God just continues working with us and in us, and Jesus teaches us to obey His commandments better, and live in this way. And since the Holy Spirit goes to those who obey Jesus, it's as if Jesus helps us to do it. So He gives us His commandments, and we put our faith in Him and obey Him and He helps us to continue doing them:

Jesus helps us when we are being tempted. So we are trying to be faithful and obedient to Jesus Christ and Jesus helps us:

Hebrews 2:14-18 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and **deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.** For surely it is not angels that he helps, but **he helps the offspring of Abraham.** Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted.** (ESV)

I really wish there was not a chapter break between these two verses because it's revealing to read them side by side:

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God.** **Working together with him**, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:11 - Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

James 2:22 - You see that faith (G4102 pistis) was working with (4903. sunergeó) his works (G2041 ergon), and as a result of the works (G2041 ergon), faith (G4102 pistis) was perfected (G5048 teleioo);

4903. sunergeó Definition: to work together. Usage: I cooperate with, work together.

We should disobey sin, and present ourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and our members as **instruments of righteousness to God.** We should be practicing righteousness, practicing love and holiness and truth:

Romans 6:12-13 - Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you **obey** its lusts, and **do not go on** presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (NASB)

A person who believes on Jesus' name has the right to become a child of God:

- **John 1:12-13** - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

A child of God makes a practice of practicing righteousness and does not make a practice of sinning:

- **I John 3:10** - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

We should definitely have the mindset of having suffered in the flesh and ceased from sinning. Be repentant, be spiritually minded, be trying to do the will of God, be prepared to stand before God:

- **I Peter 4:1-5** - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; **but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.** (ESV)

3.17.3 We become obedient to Jesus

The righteous try to be obedient. They make mistakes sometimes, they mess up sometimes but they return to God with the fear of God (they repent):

Proverbs 24:15-16 - Lie not in wait as a wicked man against the dwelling of the righteous; do no violence to his home; for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity. (ESV)

John Piper - "Mercy means that **our obedience doesn't have to be perfect, it has to be penitent.**"

youtube.com: lord you know that we love you {@PrestonSA} (lyrics) Lord, You know that we love You! Help that love to be true; Fill our lives with Your Spirit's power, Lord of love, make us strong – We who to Christ belong.

Lord, You know that we fail You; Our sins, how sorely they grieve You! Many times have we fallen; Lord, lift us up again. May we walk to be worthy of the call that is ours; May Your will and Your purpose Claim our undivided powers!

He paid the price for our sin:

Romans 4:25 - who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

And we are justified and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who we are following:

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through **our Lord Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

Long before we ever believed in / obeyed Jesus, God had chosen us to believe in Him and to take part in His holy calling:

II Timothy 1:9 - who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, (ESV)

Jeremiah 1:4-5 - Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:13 - Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

We love our neighbour the way Jesus commanded:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

Jesus loved us selflessly. We should love one another selflessly:

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

We should disobey sin, and present ourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and our members as **instruments of righteousness to God**. We should be practicing righteousness, practicing love and holiness and truth:

Romans 6:12-13 - Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you **obey** its lusts, and **do not go on** presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (NASB)

3.17.4 There's some bonuses to suffering for Christ's sake and for endurance

Not all Christian suffering is the same:

youtube.com: Your Pain Has Purpose | My Testimony {@itsjameycarrington} @time: 13 min 53 sec

Notice how Jesus in his new creation self is showing the wounds and scars of his old creational self. That's what the power of God is, because once we place once we place our faith in God we are new creations and those scars and wounds that we once had, they are not only healed but they are given purpose. God can turn anything around if I didn't have God I don't know where I'd be.

I Peter 4:16 - Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. (ESV)

If we keep His commandments, keep His works we will reign with Him:

II Timothy 2:12-13 - if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:26 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, (ESV)

Romans 8:17 - and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

But suffering for Christ's sake should be for giving glory to Jesus:

3.17.5 Eternal life and salvation is a gift received through faith and obedience to God

We put our hope on Him to be our High Priest and Advocate, we obey Him as He saves us.

These should really go hand in hand:

- Believing in Jesus Christ for His finished work to receive justification and eternal life and remain in relationship with Father God and with Jesus
- Obeying Jesus Christ (repenting from sin, loving God and your neighbour) to be saved from the wrath of God should really go hand-in-hand.
 - Toss Me in the Water - YouTube @time: 3 min 37 sec
 - youtube.com: Live Like You Belong in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-21, Part 7

When you believe Jesus' words you are trusting of Jesus. If you believe Jesus then you believe when He says He is the Son of God, for example. Someone who hears Jesus' voice and does it is someone who believes Jesus and trusts Him. A person can have a heart of obedience to Jesus and that's a heart of trust, it's a heart of belief. If you trust Jesus you will believe what He says and you will have obedience to Him.

At it's most basic form repentance (metanoia) means a person changes their mind to believe and trust and have a heart of obedience - accepting of the will of God. To repent means **stop distrusting and start trusting** God.

We have believe Jesus and to trust Jesus. When Jesus says He is the Son of God, we must believe it because we trust Him. Likewise when He commands us to repent from sinning we should agree with Jesus and be obedient:

John 16:8-9 - And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: **concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;** (ESV)

We need to heed Jesus' warning that we need to change our minds or perish. We have to stop believing falsehood and believe the truth, believe/trust Jesus and Jesus' words:

Luke 13:3 - No, I tell you; but unless you repent (3340. metanoeō), you will all likewise perish. (ESV)

We keep eyes on Jesus and trust Him:

Hebrews 12:2 - looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (ESV)

Isaiah 12:2 - Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. (ESV)

We must be taught by Jesus. We must be teachable. We must accept what God says and accept he one He sent (Jesus):

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

Here is a verse that shows that repenting from evil deeds is important:

Revelation of John 2:22 - Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they **repent of her works**, (ESV)

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

We **endeavour** to be justified in Christ - in Christ means abiding in Christ - through faith; trusting, believing, obedient faith:

Galatians 2:16-19 - yet we know that a person is not **justified** by works of the law but **through faith (G4102 pistis) in Jesus Christ**, so we also have believed (G4100 pisteuo) in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be **justified in Christ**, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. (ESV)

Abraham's **trusting** faith was counted to him as righteousness. I guess it was counted because he was **fully convinced**, and trusting God. This same justification **will be** counted to those who trust in God who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification:

Romans 4:20-25 - No distrust (**apistia**) made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness. But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

We believe that our justification comes by faith so we place our trust in God and continue trusting; we just get on with living for God and serving God and trusting in God for that justification as we serve God and live in the peace of God. We don't justify ourselves. We have faith in God that He will/does justify us, and we get on with living for and serving God:

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

Being justified by Jesus' blood, we are saved by Him from the wrath of God. We have faith in God also to be saved from the wrath of God. That come with God asking us to turn from our sin:

Romans 5:9 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (ESV)

Continuing to be sanctified by faith is a process where a person continues in Jesus' words because they are sanctified by faith in Jesus and that means ongoing trust and faithful obedience.

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.** (ESV)

Persevere to lack in nothing. This perseverance is done in faith:

James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (engbsb2020eb)

To be sanctified by faith in Jesus is an applied process, I think:

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are **sanctified by faith in me.** (ESV)

- Immediately we are reconciled to God by the death of His Son. We are justified,
- and then we are saved from the wrath of God by His life, repenting from sin and keeping His commandments, being sanctified, not resisting the Holy Spirit's work of sanctifying us to correct out behaviour and thoughts, and separated from the world, since friendship with the world is enmity with God
 - **Ephesians 2:3** - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (ESV)
- also, we meanwhile rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 5:8-11 - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (ESV)

Jesus' act of obedience leads to:

- justification
- life

- I believe that the life of Jesus helps us to stop sinning
 - * youtube.com: The Effort Needed to Fight Sin: Living Out Identity in Christ, Part 2
- Even though we are born of the Spirit, we still live the rest of the time on earth in obedience to Jesus to get to know Jesus and become like Him in His death

Romans 5:18 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. (ESV)

I Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

Faith presses on, faithful to Jesus, walking in the manner which Jesus walked - even to spend the rest of the time on earth being obedient to Jesus to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection, becoming like Him in His death (i.e. being faithful to God, stopping sin, exercising righteousness, becoming a scapegoat, even to death like the Apostles, sharing in His sufferings, living has He lived) and His resurrection:

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

We are saved from the wrath of God by the life of Jesus Christ. I think that's in part saying that the life of Jesus helps us to stop practicing sinful things:

Ephesians 5:5-7 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;

Ephesians 2:3 - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (ESV)

That's confirmed here:

I John 3:5-6 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him.

Repent, be sanctified, love God and your neighbour, believe and obey Jesus and you will live:

Luke 10:25-28 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.** (ESV)

We must turn away from our idols to not receive the wrath of God:

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

Malachi 3:18 - Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him. (ESV)

Zephaniah 2:1-3 - Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation, before the decree takes effect —before the day passes away like chaff— before there comes upon you the burning anger of the LORD, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the LORD. Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD. (ESV)

Psalms 57:1 - Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:20-21 - Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. For behold, the LORD is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain. (ESV)

We need to obey Jesus to see the life. That obedience isn't "working" but it is "performing/carrying out" but our justification isn't contingent on "working":

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (*pisteuōn*): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God **has** the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son **has** life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us**; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve**. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

On the other hand, if we obey Jesus we will never see death:

John 8:51 - Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone **keeps my word**, he will never see death. (ESV)

In treasuring Jesus' words, keeping them, guarding them, observing them, in Him the agape (treasuring, valuing love) has truly been perfected. Having Jesus' teachings in us clearly should result in us walking as He did:

I John 2:5-6 - **but whoever keeps (5083. téreó) His word** (G3056 logos), in him the love (G26 agape) of God (G2316 theos) has truly been perfected (G5048 teleioo). By this we know (G1097 ginosko) that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

Repent, be sanctified, love God and your neighbour, believe and obey Jesus and you will live:

Luke 10:25-28 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.** (ESV)

youtube.com: Steven Curtis Chapman - For The Sake Of The Call We will abandon it all for the sake of the call; No other reason at all but the sake of the call; Wholly devoted to live and to die; Not for the sake of a creed or a cause; Not for a dream or a promise; Simply because it is Jesus who called; And if we believe we'll obey

Repent from sin and receive with meekness the implanted word, the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is able to save us, and persevere with it and allow it to change us:

James 1:21-24 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. (ESV)

Matthew 24:9-13 - Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

Being saved by Him I think involves us becoming obedient, and faithfully obeying Jesus Christ our Lord:

Ephesians 5:5-10 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

Eternal life is **in** Jesus:

Romans 6:2-3 - By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (ESV)

Mark 1:8 - I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Acts 1:5 - for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. (ESV)

Romans 6:17-17 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, (ESV)

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

I John 5:11 - And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (ESV)

We receive / walk into the eternal life through faith in Jesus:

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

If you hear Jesus' words which came from God and trust God then you have eternal life:

Trusting Jesus' words we do not come into judgement, but change direction, and instead our destiny is life eternal. We do not come into judgement. Jesus is the judge of that:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word (**191. akouó**) and believes (**4100. pisteuó**) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed (**3327. metabain**) from death to life. (ESV)

I think John 5:24 reads that the one who is trusting the words spoken through Jesus, trusting God, trusting Jesus is holds/posesses eternal life and has passed/is passing/passes from death into life.

2064. erchomai to come, go

3327. metabain to pass over, withdraw, depart

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (KJV)

John 7:16 - So Jesus answered them, My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. (ESV)

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

I Timothy 6:3-4 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, (ESV)

3.17.6 Propitiation

Hebrews 2:14-15 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (ESV)

youtube.com: Freed from Unforgiven Sin {@desiringGod} @time: 17 min 29 sec There is only one lethal weapon in the artillery of Satan. If you've ever thought about this, listen carefully. There's only one lethal, deadly, final, destructive weapon in the artillery of Satan. You know what it is? Your sin. Nobody goes to hell because of being harassed by the devil. Nobody goes to hell because of being possessed by the devil. Nobody goes to hell because of being oppressed by the devil. Nobody goes to hell because of seeing green apparitions on their ceiling at night and hearing weird noises under the bed, which are real. Nobody goes to hell because of that. People go to hell for one reason: unforgiven sin. That's all. Satan has one way to get you to hell, keep you from a savior and get you to sinning, that's all. And if you're covered by the blood of Jesus, if you're clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, you can look him right in the face and say,

"Be gone, Satan." Or if he rages against you such as to put you in jail or to make you sick or to kill you, you can smile back at him and say: I'm free from the fear of this thing. Your power's gone. That's my answer. The reason verse 17 says that he had to be made like us to propitiate sins by his dying, and the reason verse 14 says he had to be made like us to destroy the one who has the power of death, the reason both of those are true is because in covering sin he takes the power of Satan against us. He (satan) can't destroy us. Only sin destroys, and when your sin is covered Satan has nothing that he can hold against you. The accuser, he's an accuser, right? The accuser has no brief in court. His hands are empty, there's no evidence. He can stand there in front of the judge, and say, "I hate them, they're evil, they committed fornication once upon a time. They lied yesterday. They masturbated this week. They looked at they looked at evil stuff. They made fun of Billy Graham." And his hands are empty and God on the bench says, "I know all that. I know all that. But, look, in their hand is a documents called the New Covenant. It's been signed by the blood of my Son. And in it is a commitment to propitiate all their sins if they would trust him, and I'm the one who decides whether I'm angry or not and I'm not angry."

youtube.com: Freed from Unforgiven Sin {@desiringGod} @time: 11 min 20 sec Let's go to verse 17 and ask, why did Jesus have to become human in order to be a High Priest to make propitiation for sins? Why did he need to be human to be a High Priest? Why couldn't he be a high priest as God the Son? Divine, indestructible, not incarnate. Why could not he be our High Priest? Today he's interceding as a High Priest for us in heaven. Here's the reason: it's given four times in the book of Hebrews. The offering that the high priest Jesus offers for us is himself. Had he brought any other offering, we would not be saved. The blood of bulls and goats, chapter 9, cannot take away sin. Only one blood shedding can take away sin, the divine Son of God, incarnate in Jesus Christ. So when it says he had to become like us in order to do the High Priestly work of propitiating sins, it's because this High Priest is going to offer no other sacrifice than the High Priest.

He lays Himself... All the old high priests, remember what they did in the Old Testament? They had bulls, and they had goats, and they had doves, and they'd go into the holy of holies, and they'd take blood and spill it on the altar, cover the sins of the people for a year, perhaps on the day of atonement, and they had to do it for their own sins too. And here comes Jesus, and He has in his mind, "I'm going to do a High Priestly work one time and it's over."

No more Temple sacrifices when I'm done, because the blood I'm taking is not the blood of a bull, the blood of a goat, the blood of a lamb, the blood of a dove, it's 'My' blood, infinitely valuable blood, and I'm going to pour it out one time, or another image would be, "I'm going to go in there, and I'm going to lie down and I'm going to die." I'm going to do that, I'm going to finish this whole system of sacrificial offerings, once for all by laying down My life that I might propitiate sins.

So the aim of His death is to make propitiation for the sins of his people, verse 17, and the aim of His death is to destroy or nullify the power of the devil and his power over death in verse 14. Christ strips the devil of his power in death by propitiating sins.

youtube.com: Freed from Unforgiven Sin {@desiringGod} @time: 22 min 49 sec So I just want to leave a promise with you, that not only has God covered your sins if you are trusting in Jesus, so that you can be free from the fear of dying, subconsciously and consciously, but also He has pledged himself to come and help you.

I've said this numerous times before and I'll close by saying it again, "Right now, today's grace is sufficient for today, and if you're scared right now that in a year, two or five or 10 or 50, you won't have grace to die well, that's okay. Sufficient under the day is the evil thereof and the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases his mercies are what every morning? New. It's going to be there folks. This promise is going to come true for you in Christ, it's going to come true for you, that when the hour comes and the pain is excruciating or the loved one is being taken from you he'll come with a special mercy for that hour.

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

In Jesus Christ there is no condemnation. Every drop of the wrath of God does not fall on God's elect.

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

In Jesus Christ there is no condemnation.

I agree with this.

God will judge those that continue practicing wickedness loving evil:

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor **among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

We must come into the light and stop practicing the wickedness:

I John 1:5-7 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

I think that when it comes to substitutionary atonement, trusting Jesus' commandments in no way impedes or comes into conflict with faith in Jesus' blood:

Titus 1:7-9 - For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to **rebuke those who contradict it**. (ESV)

1 rebuke

2 An expression of sharp disapproval or

3 criticism.

4 "he hadn't meant it as a rebuke, but Neil

5 flinched"

So I just rebuke those people who say that trusting in Jesus' commandments is trusting in one's own works (and not trusting in Jesus) because to trust Jesus to do His commandments is completely in the Truth and doing so has nothing against trusting in His works accomplished in passion, death and resurrection and to think that trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments is trusting in one's own works rather than Jesus' works I think is a satanic deception:

Hebrews 5:9-10 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

In the name of Jesus Christ I rebuke every spirit which does not agree with the person, work, commandments and doctrines of Jesus Christ. AMEN!!

'Legalism' and religious man-made doctrine can be dangerous:

Rather than try to tell God who He should justify or condemn, we should simply focus on Jesus, work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (fear of God), focus on Jesus' commandments, try to keep Jesus' commandments and works, and maintain a good conscience with God, we should try to be producing Christ's selfless love out of a pure heart, purified by faith in Him and in His blood, and out of a sincere faith and good conscience, and when we are weak, fall short etc, we just go to the throne of grace to ask for mercy.

Hebrews 4:9-16 - So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

3.17.7 Faith in the blood of Jesus

Pastors fail us, but Jesus Christ doesn't fail us. That's why Jesus should be ultimately our only Teacher. Jesus is our only sure foundation.

youtube.com: The Holy Spirit Will Teach You Everything - Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon {@BishopBarron}

Karl Barth, the great Protestant theologian from the last century, said, "The claim that God has spoken implies the trinity." And what he meant was if you say God has spoken, which is a basic biblical intuition, that means there must be in God a speaker, we call him the father, there must be a word spoken. We call that the son. And Bart says there must be an interpreter of the word. Why? Because the divine word, that's too much for our little minds to handle. So we need not a human interpreter. He's not going to help us with that. We need a divine interpreter of the divine word.

II Timothy 2:7 - Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. (ESV)

It's a real shame when mistakes are made though. I have made plenty of mistakes too.

Having faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus is of most importance, but having faith in Jesus' blood is inclusive of the shed blood of His passion:

I Thessalonians 4:14 - For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:1-5 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (ESV)

Isaiah 53:4-10 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD (3068. Yhv - Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw'), Meaning: Jehovah) has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:8-9 - Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! (ESV)

I agree that there's actual power in Jesus' actual blood, and after taking a look at the KJV for Romans 3:25 and the Interlinear, I'm convinced that having faith (trusting) in the actual shed blood of Jesus is Scriptural and I think most importantly this means the atoning sacrifice of Jesus His passion and His death. I'm convinced that Romans 3:25 is better translated in the KJV than the ESV.

Romans 3:25 - Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (KJV)

Hebrews 9:13-14 - For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (KJV)

Isaiah also appears to show that it's the shedding of Jesus' blood which has made atonement for the sin of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Isaiah 53:3-7 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (KJV)

I consider doctrines to be helpful but also we need a real relationship with God, so being able to trust God Himself through trusting Jesus Himself is vitally important, I think, and that extends to receiving Jesus and Jesus' words and believing Him and trusting Him and His words. I try to not lean on my own understanding of doctrine but continue trusting in God, and this is dynamic, and while I keep a good conscience with God in this way, I'm content as far as assurance and confidence for the day of judgement goes. The Scripture is useful for correction.

Of course, Jesus' blood made atonement for sin so we can be healed:

Hebrews 9:22 - And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. (KJV)

Likewise, without Jesus being raised, our faith in Jesus would be in vain:

I Corinthians 15:14-17 - And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. (KJV)

Anyway, I think it's faith in Jesus Christ Himself (and God is the Justifier) which is of most importance.

Romans 4:5 - But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (KJV)

Jesus' blood bought our redemption. A person who puts their faith in Jesus may receive this redemption which has been purchased with His blood. God justifies and purifies. I think it's faith in Jesus Christ Himself which is most important with God as the Justifier.

I Corinthians 13:9-12 - For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. (KJV)

The interlinear on biblehub for Romans 3:25 also is reassuring me that faith in the actual blood of Jesus is totally Scriptural. I'm not a "KJV-only" guy but I respect the KJV as a translation although I have found other versions at times to be better translations, and I don't see it as a problem to go into the Greek and to read from other translations, although I think we have to be careful.

- **Romans 3:25** - whom set forth as - God a propitiation through - faith in - His blood for a showing forth of the righteousness of Him because of the forbearance of the having taken place beforehand sins in the forbearance - of God (Interlinear)

1	3739	4388	3588	2316	2435	1223	3588	4102
2	hon	proetheto	ho	Theos	hilastērion	dia	tēs	pisteōs
3			Θ	,	[]			
4	whom	set forth as	-	God	a propitiation	through	-	faith
5	RelPro-AMS	V-AIM-3S		Art-NMS	N-NMS	N-ANS	Prep	Art-GFS
6								N-GFS
7	1722	3588	846	129	1519	1732	3588	1343
8	en	tō	autou	haimati	eis	endeixin	tēs	dikaiosynēs
9				,				
10	in	-	His	blood	for	a showing forth of the	righteousness	
11	Prep	Art-DNS	PPro-GM3S	N-DNS	Prep	N-AFS	Art-GFS	N-GFS
12								
13	846	1223	3588	3929	3588	4266		
14	autou	dia	tēn	paresin	tōn	progegonotōn		
15		,						
16	of	Him	because	of	the	forbearance	of	the
17						having	taken	place
18						beforehand		
19	265		1722	3588	463	3588	2316	
20	hamartēmatōn		en	tē	anochē	tou	Theou	
21		-			Θ	;		
22	sins		in	the	forbearance	-	of	God
23	N-GNP		Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	

3.17.8 Salvation is by faith and patience

And disobedience arises from a lack of faith. We can come to Jesus who is our High Priest, but has been tempted as we are tempted but without sin, and who can sympathise with us. Therefore, most importantly, we should hold fast to our confession of faith in Jesus and continue in patience unto salvation and to inherit the promises.

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

Luke 13:23-30 - And someone said to him, Lord, will those who are saved be few? And he said to them, Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, open to us, then he will answer you, I do not know where you come from. Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets. But he will say, I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil! In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:1-16 - Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest, although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: And God rested on the seventh day from all his works. And again in this passage he said, They shall not enter my rest. Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, Today, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:12-14 - For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (ESV)

Hebrews 6:1-12 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (ESV)

Abraham believed that not even death could prevent receiving the promises that God has given, and that's what our faith should also be like:

Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:39-40 - And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. (ESV)

3.17.9 Being saved by faith in Jesus' blood

This is faith-based righteousness.

God's Righteousness is received through faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:1-5 - Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes**. For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments (G4160 poiēsas, having done) (G846 auta, these things) shall live by them. (ESV)

The righteousness that is by law requires keeping the **entire** law.

The problem is being required to keep the **whole** law to be justified by it. There is no problem with obedience itself. We want faith working through love. Working faith is what we want:

Galatians 5:1-7 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that **he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace**. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. **Who hindered you from obeying the truth?** (ESV)

Romans 10:5 - Moses for writes - [of] the righteousness that [is] of the law that The having done these things man will live by them (Interlinear)

1	3475	1063	1125	3754	3588	1343	3588	1537
2	Mōusēs	gar	graphei	hoti	tēn	dikaiosynēn	tēn	ek
3	M							
4	Moses	for	writes	-	[of]	the	righteousness	that [is] of
5	N-NMS	Conj	V-PIA-3S	Conj	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Art-AFS	Prep
6								
7	3588	3551	3754	3588	4160	846	444	
8	tou	nomou	hoti	Ho	poiēsas	auta	anthrōpos	
9	<	>	,	[]	[]	,		
10	the	law	that	The	having done	these things	man	
11	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Conj	Art-NMS	V-APA-NMS	PPro-AN3P	N-NMS	
12								
13	2198		1722	846				
14	zēsetai	en	autē					
15	.							
16	will	live	by	them				
17	V-FIM-3S	Prep	PPro-DF3S					

Paul links actively believing (trusting) in Jesus Himself to trusting in His blood:

Romans 10:6-13 - But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (G3670 homologeó) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes (G4100 pisteuōn, believing) in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (ESV)

- We are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24).
- God set Christ Jesus forth as propitiation through faith in His blood
 - Trusting in Jesus Himself has no conflict with trusting in Jesus' blood (His finished works of His passion, death and resurrection)
 - We should have faith in Jesus' blood (His finished works of His passion, death and resurrection) to receive propitiation. The Jesus we believe in, trust in, is the one who died for our sins and rose again from the dead for our justification
 - * This doesn't prevent God from justifying anyone who trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ as He is just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus

The redemption is received through faith in Jesus' atoning blood (in His passion and death on a tree and resurrection):

Romans 3:20-28 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith [through (G2435 dia) faith (G4102 pisteōs) in His (G846 autou) blood (G129 haimati)]. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (ESV)

Romans 3:25 - whom set forth as - God a propitiation through (G2435 dia) faith (G4102 pisteōs) in His (G846 autou) blood (G129 haimati) for a showing forth of the righteousness of Him because of the forbearance (G3929 parasin, overlooking, passing over) of the having taken place beforehand sins in the forbearance (G463 anoché, patience, tolerance) - of God (Interlinear)

1	3739	4388	3588	2316	2435	1223
2	hon	proetheto	ho	Theos	hilastērion	dia
3			Θ	,		
4	whom	set forth as	-	God	a propitiation through	
5	RelPro-AMS	V-AIM-3S		Art-NMS	N-NMS	N-ANS
6						Prep
7	3588	4102	1722	3588	846	129
						1519

8 tēs pisteōs en tō autou haimati eis
 9 [] ,
 10 - faith in - His blood for
 11 Art-GFS N-GFS Prep Art-DNS PPro-GM3S N-DNS Prep
 12
 13 1732 3588 1343 846 1223
 14 endeixin tēs dikaiosynēs autou dia
 15 ,
 16 a showing forth of the righteousness of Him because of
 17 N-AFS Art-GFS N-GFS PPro-GM3S Prep
 18
 19 3588 3929 3588 4266
 20 tēn paresin tōn progegonotōn
 21
 22 the forbearance of the having taken place beforehand
 23 Art-AFS N-AFS Art-GNP V-RPA-GNP
 24
 25 265 1722 3588 463 3588 2316
 26 hamartēmatōn en tē anochē tou Theou
 27 - Θ ;
 28 sins in the forbearance - of God
 29 N-GNP Prep Art-DFS N-DFS Art-GMS N-GMS

3.17.10 Encouragement from the Bible

Psalms 16:8 - I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. (ESV)

John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (ESV)

Psalms 34:17-19 - When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. (ESV)

3.18 Treasuring anything else more than God is sin

Quote by Tim Keller Know what the Bible says: Sin is craving something more than God. Sin is making something more important than God. Sin is living for something more than God. If God is at the periphery of your life, if you're just religious occasionally, if God [is] sort of on the outskirts of your life, that is sin. That's the essence of sin.

Luke 10:27-28 - And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

Watch youtube.com: Love Jesus More Than You Love Anything

Philippians 3:8 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (ESV)

3.18.1 Eschatology

Our focus must be on Jesus Christ, we must remain faithful to Jesus Christ:

Luke 21:17-22 - You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. (ESV)

James 5:7-12 - Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand.** Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)

I believe that we are in these times so we should right now be praying for strength, and have our focus on God and not on the cares of this life / the world:

Luke 21:28-37 - Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because **your redemption is drawing near.** And he told them a parable: Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet. (ESV)

I Peter 4:12-19 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 1:4-10 - Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed

from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (ESV)

youtube.com: Why Does the World Feel So Strange Right Now? {@EndTimesProductions} @time: 5 min

So, when I said earlier things are under control, well, what exactly did I mean by that? Well, I hate to say it, but things are under control in a way that you probably don't want to hear. You see, the Bible tells us exactly what's going to happen step by step, play by play. And when I say things are under control, they are absolutely under control. But the Lord is in control.

I really appreciated Allie's video here youtube.com: Eschatology, End Times and What's to Come | Ep 134

youtube.com: wake up for the return of Christ {@Brycesdiary} @time: 16 min 20 sec We can't build

our Tower of Babel to God but the reason we pray, the reason we give our lives to Christ, the reason we're obedient to Him is because, man, we're transformed by this love that comes inside of our heart and out of the abundance of the heart our mouth and our actions produce this fruit that we really believe what we say we believe. My friend, my brother, my sister, listen to this: Get right with the Lord. Stay awake, stop sleeping. Wake up. It's time to put on the full armour of God.

Ephesians 6:11-20 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having **put on the breastplate of righteousness**, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (ESV)

Because God loved us *first*:

- The Apostle Paul endeavours to know Jesus ('makes it his own'. See **Php 3:9-13**) because Jesus made Paul *His own*

– To be found in Jesus **is** what Paul describes as the righteousness from God that depends on faith

* **Philippians 3:8-12** - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

* **I Thessalonians 5:8** - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

- * **I John 3:23-24** - And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)
- * **Ephesians 6:14** - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness,** (ESV)
- * **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce **the righteousness that God requires.** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness **the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,** deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)
- We know Jesus by believing in Him and obeying His commandments, and when we love and forgive we know *God loved us and forgave us first*
- * **I John 2:3-6** - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
- We must love because *He loved us first* for God to abide in us
 - **Romans 5:7-8** - For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)
 - **I John 4:9-12** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)
- We must forgive as we have been forgiven
 - **Colossians 3:12-14** - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)
- We must be conformed to holiness
 - **I Peter 1:14-16** - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. (ESV)

Before the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ there is the appearance of the "man of lawlessness":

II Thessalonians 2:1-4 - Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless **the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.** (ESV)

This is also interesting:

youtube.com: The End of the Catholic Church Mar Mari Emmanuel {@MarMariEmmanuelChannel} @t

This is the end of times, not the end of the world, the end of times. And every end of time is a 2,000 year cycle, from Adam to the great flood of Noah, 2,000 year cycle, from the time of Abraham to the Lord Jesus, 2000 year cycle, and from the Lord Jesus till now, we've gone into 2,000 and a bit year cycle. We are living end of times. What happens in every cycle of end of time, something great happens on a global level.

We're getting pretty close, I think:

Matthew 24:12-16 - And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (ESV)

youtube.com: MOMENT OF GREAT GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY {@WatchmanRiver} @time: 6 min 8 s

I remember when I was very young these old pastors used to say, "When you get to a point where the Middle East is the top of the news every single day, start looking up because that will most likely be the season of the harpazo, of the rapture. And I'm telling you it's every day. Isn't it?

We must put on the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation. The breastplate of righteousness is a breastplate of faith and love. We have faith in Jesus Christ who died for our sins and we love one-another, and we have hope of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ:

I Thessalonians 5:1-10 - Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For **God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.** (ESV)

youtube.com: YOU ARE NOT APPOINTED TO WRATH & YOU ARE NOT 'LEFT BEHIND': TWO

If you have him as your number one in your heart, you are his bride. And it is that simple to have no fear.

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

I haven't written about the various theories on pretrib-rapture, posttrib etc. because I've just been concentrating on my relationship with Jesus rather than fear and panic. I believe that if we have been transformed by the gospel into obedient to Christ, if we are trying to be obedient to Jesus' commandments out of faith and love

for Jesus, Him as our #1 agape love in our heart, in faith for what He has done, knowing God loved us first, and endeavouring to keep His commandments, then we are functioning the way Jesus wants us to and there is nothing to worry about in terms of salvation.

The 'beast system' stuff is no joke to me. We've seen how the COVID lockdowns were pushed onto society and the fear and panic and division it caused between families and church congregations and the excessive government control and vilification of those who did not want to be force vaccinated. And I was saying it back in 2021, that the COVID fear and panic is distracting everyone from what's coming down the road, the AI stuff. And now it's here and I can see more issues. I'm definitely not going to allow people to push me around with this AI stuff, especially as I've seen it from a mile away.

youtube.com: SETTING THE STAGE FOR ANTICHRIST... IN REAL TIME! {@WatchmanRiver}

Some people say we're running out of normal or normal is not coming back. Jesus is because that that's the fact, Jack. We're in that time period right now. Listen to this. Antichrist kingdom is forming right before our eyes. I say that because of the exponential increase in lawlessness which will later define his coming rule upon the earth. Paul emphasized his character referring to him as both the man of lawlessness and the lawless one.

In Revelation 13:5-18 emphasizes his total disregard for all that's right and good. He will excel in blaspheming the Lord, murder, and tyranny. Yeah. And we we're in those days right now watching for the return of Jesus. That's why we come here every day and say, "Look, time is short. Time is short. If you don't know Jesus, please keep watching this video." How many times do I say that? And I mean it each and every time. We've gone too far down this road.

With regards to idolatry specifically, a graven image is nothing compared to God. If it's being used as an idol, it's correct to not bow to that idol, and it's correct to not give it our heart obedience. It might still be correct to boycott certain things for righteousness-sake, on the grounds of idolatry or simply not wanting to partake in theft. At the end of the day, even this AI stuff has to be seen as nothing compared to God.

Daniel 3:12 - There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up. (ESV)

Calling AI an 'entity' might carry some fictitious ideas drawn from the new M.I. movie which has came out in theaters.

I Corinthians 10:19-22 - What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (ESV)

youtube.com: Demons - documentary film with Dr. Michael S. Heiser {@logosbiblesoftware} @time: 8 m

For all of you who wanna say, "Oh, it's just idols or just, objects of stone or whatever, and they don't have real entities behind them."

"Why would Paul care then?" Are you saying that Paul didn't believe that demons were real? I'm sorry, but Paul did, okay?

Paul quotes this passage using elohim of these other entities.

That certainly did have idols made for them.

In the biblical worldview, these were real entities that mattered because they were hostile and could lead people astray, away from the true God.

youtube.com: PUSHING AI UPON US ALL! THE BEAST SYSTEM {@WatchmanRiver} You know, these people that are pushing this, they know, they know the dangers of AI, but you know what? They don't care. They don't care. They want it in every aspect of our life. They want to wire our brains to our

phones. They say it where you could, you know, upgrade. You could do an update on your brain. Oh, you need a new system. You need the latest.

They want us to rely on AI with every move we make. And it's going to eventually track everyone, every move they make. It's going to own the lost. It's going to own them. There are videos coming out now where you can't tell it's AI. It's getting to that point. Remember I said this quite a while ago. I said, "At some point, they're going to be able to take 10 seconds of my voice and my face and they'll be able to create a video and you'd never know it wasn't me."

And I think brother Tyler said to me in a text, we are going back and forth and he said, "You know, my youngest daughter is going to grow up in a world that she won't know truth from falsehood, fakeness, because that's what this does. It blurs the line of truth and lies. I told my wife this morning, we were having coffee and I said, "Honestly, if I didn't believe in Jesus, this coming AI revolution would depress me to the point of death.

Journal <2025-05-08 Thu> Last night I was hit with an awful amount of spiritual attack including false dreams and conversations in my sleep which I did not feel in control over. When I became conscious of that I need to test the spirits during this conversation, and tried to recite **I John 4:1**, the dream freezed and I woke up. I still do not feel free of whatever has been attacking me this morning. In the last week I've been with a lot of these false, lewd, death-themed or tempting dreams. But I think it's not right for me to repeat them because I am called to test the spirits to see if they are from God. And I had no explicit instruction to relay anything. A trustworthy dream in my books must come with confessions about elementary doctrine of Christ, such as that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has come in the flesh, died for my sins and rose from the dead for my justification. But I just wanted to put it here that I believe that I've been harassed a lot by satan, and also that I really want to continue being purified of every defilement of spirit (biblehub.com defilement.htm: Topical Bible: The Danger of Spiritual Defilement, holystudy.org: SPIRITUAL DEFILEMENT - Holy Ghost Fellowship International)) and flesh.

See biblehub.com defilement.htm: Topical Bible: The Danger of Spiritual Defilement, holystudy.org: SPIRITUAL DEFILEMENT - Holy Ghost Fellowship International

I John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

These things probably happen from our perspective, no matter which generation we are in. If we see this happening for ourself, we should be careful to be keeping Christ's commandments, and remaining faithful to Him and keeping our hope in Jesus, and have all the armour of God on:

Luke 21:29-37 - And he told them a parable: Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, **you see for yourselves** and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For **it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth**. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet. (ESV)

We should be maintaining keeping Christ's commandments to show Christs' love to people as we bear witness of Jesus before governors (a court of law, say), and kings (people in earthly positions of power):

Luke 21:9-20 - And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once. Then he said to them, Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that **its desolation has come near.** (ESV)

Zechariah 12:3 - On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. (ESV)

We should be storing up treasure in heaven, as servants, keeping Jesus' commandments, waiting for Jesus:

Luke 12:33-37 - Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning**, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will **dress himself for service** and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. (ESV)

3.18.2 Satan's plan exposed, explained, extinguished

II Corinthians 11:2-4 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel (G3844 par', contrary to) from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. (ESV)

Notice how II Cor 11:4 uses the greek word *par* which seems to translate to "contrary". OK, so if someone is speaking the same thing as Jesus and the Apostles, then great. But if they are preaching, say, against "repentance from sin" then they are not speaking the same gospel, they're not speaking the same thing as Jesus and the Apostles.

1	235	2532	1437	1473	2228	32	1537	3772
2	Alla	kai	ean	hēmeis	ē	angelos	ex	ouranou
3								
4	But	even	if	we	or	an angel	out of	heaven
5	Conj	Conj	Conj	PPro-N1P	Conj	N-NMS	Prep	N-GMS
6								
7	2097				4771	3844	3739	
8	euangelizētai				hymin	par'	ho	
9	*				,			
10	should	preach	a gospel	to you	contrary	to what		
11	V-PSM-3S				PPro-D2P	Prep	RelPro-ANS	
12								
13	2097				4771	331	1510	
14	euēngelisametha	hymin			anathema	estō		

15 , !
16 we proclaimed to you accursed let him be
17 V-AIM-1P PPro-D2P N-NNS V-PMA-3S

Revelation of John 17:5-6 - And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations. And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly. (ESV)

I'm not the one to condemn but Jesus' word will judge on the last day the one who rejects Jesus' words. I believe we must be corrected by the Truth, as it is revealed to us through God's Word as we are walking by the Spirit.

Luke 24:25-26 - And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? (ESV)

It's so important to be correctable by the Truth. God knows His sheep:

Luke 24:27-32 - And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent. So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

God wants us to fear Him and receive correction from Him:

Zephaniah 3:6-7 - I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant. **I said, Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.** But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt. (ESV)

youtube.com: Christ condemned. Good person? Eating disorders. Luz de Maria? Trump: LGBT, IVF. S

And uh one cannot in any way shape or form in any sense be considered a Christian who denies the doctrine of the blessed Trinity, and yet survey shows 9% of those identifying as Catholics in America believe only 9% believe in the blessed trinity. 91% do not believe. Now that's apostasy. You know, this basically amounts to apostasy because when you deny the belief in the blessed Trinity, you deny everything. You deny the incarnation of the second person of the blessed trinity. If there is no second person of the blessed trinity, you deny if you deny the incarnation of the second person of the blessed trinity, you deny the redemption. You deny all the sacraments, everything, everything goes with that denial. It's called apostasy.

I'm certainly not condemning the entire categories of people from the Roman Catholic church or even from the Jehovah's Witnesses, etc. or Reformists, but I am concerned about polluting Christianity with false religion, and affirming the lie that there is any other way to God other than through Jesus Christ. We have to submit to God's Righteousness. God tests the hearts and knows His sheep. Although I think John here rightly makes important points here against bad doctrines and false-religion. 'Religion' is not God's way. I think doctrine and traditions have value but not when they take the place of trusting Jesus Christ Himself who is not far from any of us.

Mark 12:32-34 - And the scribe said to him, You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, You are not far from the kingdom of God. And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions. (ESV)

Acts 17:24-28 - The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for In him we live and move and have our being; as even some of your own poets have said, For we are indeed his offspring. (ESV)

Jeremiah 29:13-14 - You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (ESV)

youtube.com: THE DEADLIEST FORM OF FAKE NEWS—Satan’s Plan to Use False Religions to Deceive

Satan’s plan is to counter God’s plan and to tell people they can go their own way to God by achieving by working hard by religion, by doing the five pillars of Islam or following the doctrines of the Roman Catholic church or knocking door too Jehovah’s Witnesses or going to the temple in Salt Lake City. Religion is not God’s way.

...

God’s way was substitution of a kind of what we call a substitutionary sacrifice that you came to by faith see that’s the gospel that’s been around since the Garden of Eden. God says you need a substitute who dies in your place and you by faith trust him.

youtube.com: THE DEADLIEST FORM OF FAKE NEWS—Satan’s Plan to Use False Religions to Deceive

What do all the early church, the Catholic Church, the Reformation Church, the Evangelical and the charismatic, what do they all have in common? The Bible. Now look at this. This much of Roman Catholicism is absolutely true. This much of the Reformation Church was based in the Bible. This much of the evangelical Church, and this much of the charismatic church, and this much of the early church. But all of the iterations that followed have the part that’s not in the Bible. What’s Romanism? The damnable doctrine of works, that you can earn your way. What about the Reformation Church? What we call theological drift which basically is this: Verse of the Bible, verse of the Bible, conclusion from that verse... verse of the Bible, verse of the Bible, conclusion from that verse. Now these conclusions are directly anchored to the Scripture. Watch this... Conclusion from two conclusions is theological drift, this doctrine is no longer tied to the Scripture. It may be true, but it’s not Scriptural. It’s logical, and that’s what we come up with in the Reformation Church. That’s where we get such things as dual predestination. They said that God predestines some people to hell and some to heaven. Have you ever heard that doctrine? That is very clearly a part of the Reformation Church. Is that in the Bible? Do you find that here? No. But you find it logically here. And then what did the evangelical church do? They got into the problem of traditions over the Word. What’s one of the clearest ones? We call it invitationalism.

That is a real blight. Invitationalism is that if you raise your hand or pray a prayer you’re saved. No matter whether God does anything to you or not, if you did that, you’re saved. Now the Bible says **whoever calls the name of the Lord shall be saved**, but what it says is when God saves you Acts 26:18, you get a new heart and a new spirit.

But invitationalism, which started, basically in about 1830 was if you had a good very powerful preacher and he told people to come to the front and they did, they thought that by them coming to the front or

praying or doing something they got saved, and that's where the church gradually got diluted. And then of course the charismatic renewal church has so much truth in it but their excesses and experience has taken over the word.

Any issue belonging to 'legalism' is always about the appearance of obedience, rather than inward obedience and good conscience with God.

So I couldn't fully condemn something like "invitationalism". In fact, I think it's potentially a wonderful baby step on a person's faith journey if it's a sincere expression of believing the truth about God. For example, you could say, who here believes that Jesus Christ rose from the dead? Please raise your hand if you believe. That's OK. But I think it would be better to hear a person confess with their mouth. And I think we've really got to teach people to continue on in the teachings of Christ.

Satan's plan exposed:

Revelation of John 17:1-6 - Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk. And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: **Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations. And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.** When I saw her, I marveled greatly. (ESV)

Satan's plan explained:

Revelation of John 17:7-15 - But the angel said to me, Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind and hand over their power and authority to the beast. They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful. And the angel said to me, The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. (ESV)

Satan's plan extinguished:

Revelation of John 17:16-18 - And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth. (ESV)

3.19 Traditional Roman Catholic understanding

The Roman Catholic view on this as John Barnett explains it is depressing, and really shortchanges the gospel in my view.

However, I think that we receive forgiveness of sin through trusting in Jesus's name as Son of God, Christ, Son of Man, and that through faith in His blood, continued faith in His blood, and walking in the Truth, walking in the light, confessing our sin, etc. Jesus' blood continues washing us. But this is done sincerely and in relationship with God. I believe we have to continue in the commandments of Christ.

youtube.com: How a Catholic Thinks They Get to Heaven {@DTBM} Most people would agree we're born unrighteous and religion says if you get baptized as a baby that it immediately infuses to you a state of grace and you're kind of on level ground, headed toward God. But, you know, babies and toddlers and teenagers and adults sin. They're called venial sins in religion. And then if you're contrite and confess and you know cooperate with, you know, the sacraments, you're still bouncing along with the required righteousness to get you to heaven. So the goal is heaven. So, we're born, not headed to heaven, but religion says a baptism will get you up to 'okay' and then you have to keep dealing with sins. Now, a mortal sin, boom, puts you right back. You're at zero. You're, you know, bad, headed toward you know a long time getting rid of the sin. This is purgatory down here.

But if you do penance and have purchased indulgences do, you know, reparative acts, merit and good works, you can keep working. And some people work really hard, but basically there's a shortfall between what's required for heaven and where they end up, even if they only venial sin. And the shortfall sends them down here to by default they go to purgatory at death. So when life ends, religion says most people won't make it good enough, so they've got to make the final payments down here (in purgatory) or have their family purchase indulgences, pay for religious kindness and deeds and prayers and candles to get them out of there and get them to heaven.

3.20 Typical Protestant understanding

I think much closer to this way as John Barnett explains the protestant view, but I have a little bit different understanding regarding glorification because I think that glorification (doing the works of glory) happens while we are on earth and carrying out good works which have been set up for us, and done in Christ (I Peter 3:14-16) in obedience to Christ while holding faith in Christ / done in the will of God for us. Our work may burn up when they are tested by fire but we are still saved. That burning up of work I think definitely applies to work which me might do, say, in say, preaching the gospel, for example, as people often preach false doctrine, and I think that work burns up.

God will uproot false teaching. I pray that if my Bible study writeup is not good in God's sight that He would uproot it. But I'm not trying to start a church or anything, and don't consider myself to be inerrant. I'm simply doing a Bible study while maintaining a genuine relationship with God because I see the need for this type of testimony for others' benefit.

Matthew 15:13-14 - He answered, Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit. (ESV)

Also, I think that if found in Christ then we have imputed righteousness. So we must hold to our confession and seek to be found in Christ imitating Christ, and God is the justifier. And I think the Lord chastises us to clean us up because we will also have to stand before Him later. Anyway, the following typical protestant view which John Barnett describes also I think has some issues with it because it seems to suggest that it's not possible to fall away at all but that we'd only ever fall short after first having come to believe. But the rest of my theology document should clarify my stance on it. There might be more nuance. God's the judge. I still think the Protestant view John Barnett describes is more accurate than the Roman Catholic view.

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Typical protestant view:

[youtube.com: How a Catholic Thinks They Get to Heaven {@DTBM}](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTBM) @time: 4 min 52 sec So Je-

sus didn't sin. He became sin. That means, here is me and all my sins go on Jesus. So that the righteousness of God might be mine through Him. Jesus' perfect life is exchanged and put on me and my sin is put on Him. So Jesus was treated by God as if He had lied, cheated, stolen, been proud, been lustful and wicked like me, and God treated Him like He did all that, and God treats me like I have the righteousness of Christ, which is the instant that exchange takes place. I became a saint and didn't even need to be canonized, and so did every one of you, that let the simple plan of salvation be yours by faith.

At conversion, we go from unrighteousness (the way we were born) through faith and repentance to perfect righteousness, which the Bible calls justification. I was declared righteous in Christ but my life doesn't quite match up to God's declaration and so God works with me all the way through life, and there's always a shortfall.

We always fall short of the glory of God, but Jesus once and for all paid the price. Even though I never perfectly act Christ-like, because I trusted in Christ's work and He imputed to me Christ's righteousness, God is going to make me become (and it's called glorification)... I have been justified freely by His grace through the redemption in Christ so God **perfects me** when I get to heaven, but I'm never free of sin here on earth.

I do understand this (II Cor 5:21) is the case. However, I do not believe that this is an excuse to violate Christ's law / Christ's commandments, and I don't think it means we can justify ourselves and I don't think it permits us to continue on without abiding in the teaching of Christ, lest we incur God's judgement.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1 Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

3.20.1 The arrival of the kingdom of God

I believe the more precise translation is that these things happen rapidly. Now while they may soon take place - I'm not saying they are not happening already - the more accurate reading of this passage, I believe, is that the events take place rapidly:

Revelation 1:1 [The] revelation of Jesus Christ which gave Him- God to show to the bond-servants of Him what things it behooves to take place in quickness (G5034 quickness) And He signified [it] having sent through the angel of Him to the servant of Him John (Interlinear)

1	602	2424	5547	3739	1325	846
2	Apokalypsis	Iēsou	Christou	hēn	edōken	autō
3		X	,			
4	[The]	revelation	of Jesus	Christ	which	gave
5	N-NFS	N-GMS	N-GMS	RelPro-AFS	V-AIA-3S	PPro-DM3S
6						
7	3588	2316	1166	3588	1401	846
8	ho	Theos	deixai	tois	doulois	autou
9		Θ	,			ha
10	-	God	to show	to the	bond-servants	of Him
11	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-ANA	Art-DMP	N-DMP	PPro-GM3S
12						RelPro-ANP
13	1163	1096	1722	5034	2532	4591
14	dei	genesthai	en	tachei	kai	esēmanen
15			.	,		
16	it behooves	to take place	in	quickness	And	He signified
17	V-PIA-3S	V-ANM	Prep	N-DNS	Conj	V-AIA-3S
18						
19	649	1223	3588	32	846	3588
						1401

20 aposteilas dia tou angelou autou tō doulō
 21 ,
 22 having sent through the angel of Him to the servant
 23 V-APA-NMS Prep Art-GMS N-GMS PPro-GM3S Art-DMS N-DMS
 24
 25 846 2491
 26 autou Iōannē
 27 , ,
 28 of Him John
 29 PPro-GM3S N-DMS

Watch youtube.com: THE ONLY TRUE MAP OF THE FUTURE–GOD GAVE IT {@DTBM}

I've felt many of these signs since getting born-again. Notice the conflict in the Middle-East and my troubles I've faced:

Luke 21:5-36 - And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down. And they asked him, Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place? And he said, See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, I am he! and, The time is at hand! Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once. Then he said to them, Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. **You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death.** You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see (G3708 horaó / opsontai) the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because **your redemption is drawing near.** And he told them a parable: Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that **the summer is already near.** So also, when you see these things taking place, **you know that the kingdom of God is near.** Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But **watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.** **For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.** But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (ESV)

(G3708 horaó / opsontai) KJV: behold, perceive, see, take heed. NASB: saw, see, seen, appeared, seeing,

looked, look. 3708 horáō – properly, see, often with metaphorical meaning: "to see with the mind" (i.e. spiritually see), i.e. perceive (with inward spiritual perception).

I guess the arrival of the kingdom of God / entering is the "summer", spiritually speaking.

During this time we're absolutely supposed to be keeping Jesus' teachings.

We seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting God, trusting Jesus, remaining faithful to Jesus as we keep His commandments, not trusting in the worldly stuff, but trusting Jesus:

Matthew 6:24-34 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But **seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

Endurance is important:

Luke 9:62 - Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (ESV)

I John 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:36-39 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

John 18:36-37 - Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world. Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

3.20.2 How we should act how we're instructed to act while awaiting the Lord's return

[youtube.com: The End of the World? John Lennox on AI and the Book of Revelation {@SeanMcDowell}](https://www.youtube.com/@SeanMcDowell)

John's letter puts it perfectly what's going on. He talks about the hope of heaven and of Christ's coming in particular. And he says the people he or she who has this hope purify themselves even as he that is Jesus is pure. And you'll notice that it doesn't say they should purify themselves. It says they do. In other words, you can test very easily whether a Christian has grasped the meaning of the coming of Christ if it's having a moral and spiritual impact in their life. Now, it's idle just to talk about it when our lives don't correspond to it.

And that's the challenge that needs to be brought out by teaching the book of Revelation having an eye to the fact that it's multi-dimensional. It was relevant, totally relevant to seven contemporary churches in the Middle East in the first century. But then it goes way beyond that because it is as it itself claims a prophecy.

Be self-controlled and sober-minded and keep loving one another earnestly:

I Peter 4:7-8 - The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Live with the End in View

Luke 21:36 - But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (ESV)

I Peter 4:7-11 - **The end of all things is at hand;** therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good **stewards** of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Jesus doesn't delay. We must be vigilant and ready to serve Jesus:

Hebrews 10:37 - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; (ESV)

Matthew 24:48 - But if that wicked servant says to himself, My master is delayed, (ESV)

We are blessed if we are awake when our Master Jesus visits us. So we can be ready, prepared for Him to visit us and at the same time He comes at an hour we do not expect:

Luke 12:37-40 - Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

bibleref.com Luke-12-38.html: What does Luke 12:38 mean? | BibleRef.com This is part of Jesus' parable about responsible servants (Luke 12:35–37). The servants are awaiting their master's return from a wedding. Jewish weddings could last up to a week, so the servants do not know when the master will arrive. They have kept the lights on, and they are dressed to receive and serve him. When the master returns and sees his servants waiting, he is so overjoyed that he sits them at the table and serves them. If he returns later in the night, and they are still up, he is even more pleased (Luke 12:35–37). ... The watches of the night are shifts when guards are on duty. The second watch is from 9 to 12 pm; the third watch is from 12 to 3 am. Some scholars interpret this verse to mean Jesus' return will be delayed. It's certainly true that the first generation of His followers expected to see His return in their lifetime. It's also true that God is gracious and wants to give everyone the chance they need to repent (Luke 13:6–9; 2 Peter 3:9).

God wants as many people as possible to be saved (I think of this a bit like as 'delaying' the second coming - my own speculation on eschatology is just me speculating), but not like delaying Jesus' work, as we should be vigilant about anticipating Jesus. Jesus does not delay. Jesus literally visits people imminently in this life time, and we should also consider the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to be imminent:

I Timothy 2:4 - who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (ESV)

John 1:12-13 - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (NASB)

hymnary.org: All People That on Earth Do Dwell | Hymnary.org All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the LORD with cheerful voice; Him serve with mirth, His praise forth-tell; come ye before Him and rejoice!

II Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:23 - Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? (ESV)

Receiving Jesus, we have the 'right', the 'authority' to become children of God, even by receiving Him through the knowledge of His name (**onoma**):

John 1:12 - As many as however received Him He gave to them authority children of God to be to those believing in the name of Him (Interlinear)

1	3745	1161	2983	846	1325	846
2	hosoi	de	elabon	auton	edōken	autois
3	,					
4	As many as however	received Him		He gave	to them	
5	RelPro-NMP Conj		V-AIA-3P	PPro-AM3S	V-AIA-3S	PPro-DM3P
6						
7	1849	5043	2316	1096	3588	4100
8	exousian	tekna	Theou	genesthai	tois	pisteuousin
9	Θ	,				
10	authority	children	of God	to be	to those	believing
11	N-AFS	N-ANP	N-GMS	V-ANM	Art-DMP	V-PPA-DMP
12						
13	1519	3588	3686	846		
14	eis	to	onoma	autou		
15	,					
16	in	the	name	of Him		
17	Prep	Art-ANS	N-ANS	PPro-GM3S		

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks (**2334. theóreó**) on the Son and believes (**4100. pisteuó**) in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

I consider the 'coming of the Lord' to be something which happens during one's time on earth probably to every servant of the Lord:

Matthew 25:11-15 - Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. (ESV)

Matthew 24:42 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (ESV)

Luke 21:32-36 - Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (ESV)

Just as it is inevitable that every son or daughter of God will be disciplined:

Hebrews 12:6 - For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. (ESV)

I still hold *imminence* with regards to rapture a possibility on the basis that when I was born of the Spirit, things progressed very rapidly I was quickly baptised in the Holy Spirit and I asked God in prayer that the whole of my city would be saved. My words seemed to have a lot of impact during this time. This is my own speculation. I was riding by the seat of my pants after being born of the spirit.

video youtube.com: Life or Death by Your Tongue

I guess that God has been testing me and using me similarly to as He did with Paul the Apostle after he was taken into service by Jesus but also I had much error and my tongue was not well-bridled. We need to be corrected by God's Word and be doers. Talking about religious doctrine is worthless without doing the Word in obedience to Jesus.

James 1:23-27 - For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (ESV)

Paul was an Apostle by Command. As for me, I'm just acting on faith after confessing Jesus. Perhaps I still speak too much.

James 3:3 - If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. (ESV)

I received lots of visions and many of them came from the enemy I believe after I had even been reading Apocryphal gospels which I think are misleading and I do not affirm them. Then, after I had said towards the end of 2022 on my blog that we should get ready for Armageddon, war broke out in the middle east soon after. I felt as though I nearly did actually get 'raptured' or it was quickly progressing that way or something like that, and then I made a declaration to court that Jesus is the Truth, I forgive everyone etc. That resulted in some very rapid changes. Things in my life spiritually began to stabilise as I have gone through police corrections and used the time to attend Bible studies, **and be corrected by the Scripture** in my beliefs, obedience and deeds. I'm still trying to be sanctified ongoingly. I am really sorry for misleading people with regards to any error in my writings, but the way to handle this, I believe, is not to throw the baby out with the bath-water but to be corrected by the word of God. I'm still a work in progress.

A friend said this at church the very day after I was born again of the Spirit, " **Just because some messages may have been wrong, don't quench the work of God's Spirit among you by banning all prophecies, but rather make sure you test them. Hold onto what is good and dismiss those that are not good (i.e. those that are evil).** "

I Thessalonians 5:20-21 - Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. (ESV)

I feel that way about my experience of being born-again of the Spirit and then undergoing purification and ongoing repentance and correction.

Over the course of 2022, I was actually speaking a lot of prophecy. There was a lot of truth in it, and a lot of error, but my defense is Jesus and I was getting to know Jesus through being washed in the word, and in obedience to Jesus' commandments, and being corrected by the word, but we don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Mark 13:20 - And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. (ESV)

Ultimately, we are waiting for incorruptible bodies, and I totally believe in rapture and ultimately a completely new heavens and earth (not just a renewal, although **I do believe God is still taking care of and reigning on the earth**), so I think that whatever Paul the Apostle is referring to here, *well I have my speculations*, is something more imminent, and perhaps more to do with **God's kingdom work on the earth**, but I still hold the eschatological view that there is ultimately an entirely new heavens and earth without any corruption:

I Corinthians 7:29-31 - This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

Psalms 37:27-29 - Turn away from evil and do good so shall you dwell forever. For the LORD loves justice he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. (ESV)

Habakkuk 2:12-14 - Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (ESV)

In some sense I think the rapture and judgement is imminent, and I think probably when each son or daughter is brought into the kingdom they may have a 'taste of it'. In other words, God is still adopting sons and daughters and we don't know who the last one to be adopted is.

So in a sense it's been on the verge of the second coming of Christ for quite a long time:

Luke 21:20-24 - But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (ESV)

The Bible also predicts scoffers - but as Peter puts it, with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day:

II Peter 3:1-8 - This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation. For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the

same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** (ESV)

I believe the more precise translation is that these things happen rapidly. Now while they may soon take place - I'm not saying they are not happening already - the more accurate reading of this passage, I believe, is that the events take place rapidly:

Revelation 1:1 [The] revelation of Jesus Christ which gave Him- God to show to the bond-servants of Him what things it behooves to take place in quickness (G5034 quickness) And He signified [it] having sent through the angel of Him to the servant of Him John (Interlinear)

Those are my current eschatological thoughts, but I am no expert.

"When Jesus became my Lord and Savior, a battle between good and evil started." as one commenter said on this video.

After I began obeying Jesus, and especially repenting and denouncing sin and heresy, that's when I started getting attacked spiritually, as this guy (MarcTheMessenger) describes: youtube.com: God Leveled Me Up Now I'm Depressed

youtube.com: Resist the Devil - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 56 min 11 sec I'll tell you this, in the life of this church whenever we have started a new church, whenever we have started a new missionary endeavor, whenever the church has strategized some new evangelistic outreach, I have experienced the greatest resistance from the devil. Brethren, you can have your truth but I'll tell you what, the thing that he hates is when we propagate it and people start getting saved and plucked out of his dominion and his goods are no longer safe.

This from Derek Prince explains much. I can't agree with Derek Prince more here, especially regarding the necessity to get familiar with the Word of God as soon as possible and get to know it. I wish I had've been more prepared:

youtube.com: How To Deal With Direct Satanic Confrontation {@DerekPrinceMinistries} @time: 37 sec

And normally, you will have temptations after you were baptized in the Holy Spirit that you would have had before. If you study these temptations, none of them could have come to Jesus before He was moving in the supernatural realm. Every one of them involved the posession of supernatural power. And the same is true after you are baptized in the Holy Spirit is the time you will really be tempted. I meet many Christians who are quite sure whether there is a personal devil or not. But I hardly meet a person baptized in the Holy Spirit who know the answer to that one.

That's one of the things you find out quickly when you're baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reveals the identity of the enemy. That's why a lot of lukewarm churchgoers don't like Holy Spirit religion, because it brings too much out into the open. They'd rather have it all kept under-cover. The Holy Spirit doesn't keep things under cover. He forces the enemy out into the open. Another thing I'll say about the baptism in the Holy Spirit is many people don't know they have demons 'till they get baptized in the Holy Spirit. That sounds strange. I know some theology just doesn't fit in with that but I've been in that theological position that some of you are in and it isn't relevant to experience. Furthermore, it has no support in Scripture. Demons get stirred up when the Holy Spirit comes in, they don't have it all their own way any longer. If they haven't been driven out prior to receiving the baptism, then they're going to kick up more trouble and make more fuss than you've ever experienced in your life before. I believe ideally the scriptural order is these signs that follow them that believe. Number one, in my name they shall cast out the demons. Number two, they shall speak with tongues. But lots of places ... it ain't being done that way yet. Let's hope one day it will. At the moment it really isn't possible to do it that way because most professing Christians today until they're baptized in the Holy Spirit wouldn't believe in demons. See? So, though it's not the ideal we have to work on the level on which we find ourselves. Alright, when Jesus received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, then for the first time (so far as we know), he was subjected to direct Satanic confrontation and temptation. And in dealing with Satan, Jesus used only one weapon. What was that? The scripture, the sword of the

Spirit which is the word of God. Each temptation, Jesus began His answer with the phrase "It is written, it is written, it is written." And you **must** do the same. This means you **must** get acquainted with the word of God. Jesus didn't have a concordance out there in the desert. He probably didn't even have the scriptures. But he had it inside him. David said, "Thy word have I hidden, treasured up in my heart that I might not sin against thee." If you're baptized in the Holy Spirit, the next most urgent need in your life is to get to know the scriptures thoroughly and have them available. You have to live by the word. Not by church traditions, not by what people say, not by your feelings but by the written word of God.

youtube.com: America Under Delusion | David Wilkerson {@worldchallenge} Because what we're seeing now is supernatural. It's demonic. It's the devil himself, a mad devil, coming down to the earth knowing his time is short. And he's going after the body of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:10 - Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (ESV)

Even regards to the rapture, ultimately we leave this world behind. Ultimately, I think we need to go all-in for Jesus and get used to relying on God completely, and be ready to leave this world behind. If we go all-in for Jesus now then we will experience the kingdom of God on earth.

Luke 11:20 - But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (ESV)

Mark 8:34-38,9:1 - And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, **If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.** For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, **there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.** (ESV)

The present form of this world will pass away and **is** passing away:

I Corinthians 7:30-31 - and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

The repentant criminal on the cross next to Jesus was sold out for the kingdom of God and ready to leave this world behind:

Luke 23:42-43 - And he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. And he said to him, Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. (ESV)

Also, this is interesting:

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com): Strive to let everything bodily die within you, and you will rise before the general resurrection

3.20.3 Agape love for God and one another as opposed to agape love for the world

I'm adding a little section on agape loving God and one another here because although it's right to treat animals with care and respect, and even to have compassion for them and to love and value them even as God certainly does, when we read about "agape" love in the Bible, there are specific commandments that we must abide by where the word "agape" is used. Agape is reserved for God and for fellow humans, particularly our family in Christ.

We want to always be with God, and never want to be cut off from God because we agape love God more than anyone or anything.

We are called to agape love God and one another, especially our family in Christ.

We must not agape love the world or anything in the world with the type of love we have for God and our family in Christ.

The world is passing away and we must not be yoked to it, but those human beings made in the image of God who do the will of God and receive eternal life are made partakers of the divine nature and this is not something which animalkind are given:

I John 2:15-29 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

Now if someone agape love Father God then they would not agape love the world or anything in the world and they would agape love whoever has been born of Father God:

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and **everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.** (ESV)

Also, we must not be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. And we must be lovers of good:

II Timothy 3:1-4 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappraisable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, **not loving good**, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,** (ESV)

I John 4:16-21 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment**, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

thegospelcoalition.org: Do Not Muzzle the Ox: Does Paul Quote Moses Out of Context? If an ox wears a muzzle during the process of trampling the grain on the threshing floor, then it cannot eat the grain. Yahweh through Moses is saying that this is wrong. But the reason is not specified (In Deuteronomy).

Human beings are called to take dominion over the earth:

Genesis 1:27-30 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food. And it was so. (ESV)

It's not right to value animalkind above humankind and of course it's not right to value them above God who we must value and treasure above all. God also makes it clear from scripture that He has compassion for and respect the animals and we should too:

Luke 12:24 - Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! (ESV)

Proverbs 12:10 - Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. (ESV)

Numbers 22:28-32 - Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times? And Balaam said to the donkey, Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you. And the donkey said to Balaam, Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way? And he said, No. Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. And the angel of the LORD said to him, Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. (ESV)

Jonah 4:11 - And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle? (ESV)

Calvin God is not concerned about oxen, to the extent that oxen were the only creatures in His mind when He made the law, for He was thinking of men, and wanted to make them accustomed to being considerate in behaviour, so that they might not cheat the workman of his wages. For the ox does not take the leading part in ploughing and threshing, but man, and it is by man's efforts that the ox itself is set to work.

Deuteronomy 25:4 - You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain. (ESV)

I Corinthians 9:9-10 - For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. (NASB)

I Timothy 5:17-18 - Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain, and, The laborer deserves his wages. (ESV)

We should not be "destroyers of the earth" so, yes, people are supposed to take care of the world. But this world is passing away and we're not covenently bound to it:

Revelation of John 11:18 - The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 22:6-7 - If you come across a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young. You shall let the mother go, but the young you may take for yourself, that it may go well with you, and that you may live long. (ESV)

3.20.4 As Christians, we've got to repent of evil deeds and keep Jesus' works - keep imitating Christ, even in holiness

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

We follow Christ's teachings:

Revelation of John 2:15-16 - So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. (ESV)

We absolutely must put a stop to sexual immorality and idolatry:

Revelation of John 2:17-24 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it. And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they *repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. (ESV)

We must keep Jesus' teachings to the end:

Revelation of John 2:25-29 - Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who **keeps my works until the end**, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (ESV)

3.20.5 We absolutely cling to Jesus as well

I Corinthians 7:25-31 - Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and **those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.** (ESV)

Luke 20:33-36 - In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife. And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age (G165 aion) marry (G1060 gameo) and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage (G1061 gamisko), but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age (G165 aion) and to the resurrection (G386 anastasis) from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (ESV)

3.21 Disobedience towards God is sin. Treasuring anything else more than God is sin

Sermon God is very happy about obedience, and listening to His word. **Disobedience is sin, and disobedience is rejecting the word of the LORD:**

I Samuel 15:22-23 - And Samuel said, Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

Leviticus 5:17 - If anyone sins, doing any of the things that by the LORD's commandments ought not to be done, though he did not know it, then realizes his guilt, he shall bear his iniquity. (ESV)

The disobedience of mankind started in the Garden of Eden:

Genesis 3:17 - And to Adam he said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, You shall not eat of it, cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (ESV)

Jesus helps us to overcome sin. Jesus delivers us from it:

Romans 7:22-25 - For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

God's commandments through Jesus is within the Law of God:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

3.22 God makes us born-again, so we can love Him, obediently

John 3:7 - Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. (ESV)

We must follow Jesus:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.** (ESV)

We must believe Jesus is who He says He is:

John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. (ESV)

We must love Jesus:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

In my understanding, I consider all who are repently trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, for their salvation, if they are willing turn to and obey Him, if Father God puts them in, obediently trusting Jesus Christ who is their life, to be in Christ Jesus, no matter what else I say in this document.

I have been just trying to figure out my theology. One God, three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I don't have the say though. God puts a person in. AMEN!!

I Corinthians 1:30 - But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, (NASB)

We are given the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit cleanses our hearts by faith. As we obey Jesus, going against the resistance, our hearts are being cleansed:

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them **the Holy Spirit** just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

If we have faith in Jesus then we obey Jesus' commandments when presented with opportunities. We walk by faith, not sight. When other people discourage you from following Jesus' commandments, but you choose to obey Jesus anyway, this is overcoming the enemy by faith:

II Corinthians 5:7 - for we **walk by faith**, not by sight. (ESV)

With God's help, we must drop the old selfish self and allow Jesus to come in with the new obediently loving self:

Psalms 37:27 - Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. (ESV)

Selfish people killed Jesus. Jesus was selfless. Christian selfless love is based upon God having loved us first; i.e. Christ's love has more nuance to it than mere charity.

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Jesus was obedient to God unto death. We identify with Christ with a death like His (dying to sin and living to serve God), to be united with Him in a resurrection like His! This is why obedience to Jesus is so important. How can a person be resurrected if they don't die? We need to die a death to be resurrected:

II Timothy 2:11 - The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; (ESV)

Dying to sin an immediate thing and living to Christ, becoming like Jesus in His death is a lifelong (while on this earth) process. Also, starting to live for God is an immediate thing, and to be with God is the long-term thing:

Romans 6:8-10 - Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. (ESV)

I think that what the following is saying is that in a real sense a person who has died with Christ has already died the death that people typically think of as the death of the body in a real sense. The resurrection body is something that we do look forward to receiving. I think these verses are saying that as people who have received the Holy Spirit, we expect that later our physical bodies (which are dead) will be made alive again:

Romans 8:10-11 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (ESV)

1 Cor 15:36,38 - You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. (ESV)

I think baptism of water is an **appeal** to God and identifying oneself into Christ's death and resurrection but the sacrament **maybe** is not strictly required to be saved (as far as I understand).

Romans 6:3 - Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (ESV)

Romans 6:1 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For **if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but **the life he lives he lives to God.** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Being dead to sin seems to not mean "unable to let indwelling sin reign in our mortal body", so it seems that being dead to sin and having been set free (and sin no longer having power over oneself), it's still possible for a person to then "let sin reign in the mortal body" (allow it to reign), and we definitely do not want to allow sin to reign in our mortal body. I think what Paul is saying here is that we have been set free from sin and that to let sin reign after you've been set free would be something like a king allowing his enemy to reign in his own kingdom. Rather than doing that, we should be walking in faith and obedience to Jesus Christ:

Romans 6:11 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 6:12-14 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (ESV)

As I understand it, in water baptism we make an appeal to partake in the resurrection of Christ, and live to serve Christ. Also in being born of the Spirit / regeneration, we definitely die to sin and live to serve Christ, being able to see the Kingdom of God. But then we spend the rest of our lives on earth becoming like Jesus in His death - being obedient to death here on earth, to become like Him in His resurrection:

Philippians 3:8-11 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of **his resurrection**, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (ESV)

I think that water baptism in part is an appeal to partake in the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

I Corinthians 12:13 - For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of **one Spirit**. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:1-4 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (ESV)

Being baptised into Christ, becoming a slave of righteousness, being set free from sin, I assume, also involves becoming obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which we are committed:

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Having become a slave of righteousness, the fruit we get leads to sanctification and at its end eternal life:

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Nevertheless the one who trusts in Jesus and dies will yet live. AMEN!! And the following verse, I believe actually applies to baptism (identifying with Christ in His death and resurrection)! So a nice way of reading the following is: If someone, while believing in Jesus Christ, dies to their old selfish nature to live as someone who loves selflessly, they will live, and the one who lives abiding in Jesus Christ's love, having died to their old selfish nature, and believes in Him will never die:

John 11:25-27 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never (G3756) (G3361) die. Do you believe this? She said to him, Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world. (ESV)

ou mé Not at all, never, by no means. G3756 (οὐ - no) and G3361 (οὐδε - no)] a double negative strengthening the denial, "not at all" Strong's Exhaustive Concordance anymore, at all, neither, never

I like that way of thinking of it because it encapsulates both belief and obedience to Jesus - both which I think are important.

Jesus' selfless love also faithful to God. **Without breaking faith with God**, Jesus loved back his persecutors:

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

No-one took Jesus' life, but Jesus laid it down of His own accord. Nevertheless, he was killed by sinners. To put it another way, while needing to fulfill the law and the prophets, he did not sin, and sinners killed Him and cast lots with His clothes, but actually you could say that Jesus gave His life, and let them have His clothes:

John 10:18 - No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. (ESV)

Matthew 5:40 - And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. (ESV)

I Peter 2:22 - He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (ESV)

Matthew 27:35 - And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. (ESV)

I Peter 3:17-18 - For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, (ESV)

And Jesus prayed for his persecutors:

Luke 23:34 - And Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they cast lots to divide his garments. (ESV)

Likewise, that's the type of selfless love we should have. Selfless love while trying to maintain faithfulness to God:

I Peter 2:20 - For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. (ESV)

I Peter 4:19 - Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

The purest selfless love loves while not breaking faith with God. Jesus maintained faithfulness to God while maintaining selfless love. We should endeavour to have the same mind:

Philippians 2:5-8 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

The Apostle Paul strove to maintain a clear conscience with God:

Acts 24:14-16 - But this I confess (G3670 homologeó) to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. **So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.** (ESV)

Yes, it's very important for Christians to practice their righteousness sincerely:

I John 3:7 - Little children, let no one deceive you. **Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.** (ESV)

We are commanded to be innocent, and to bear witness of Jesus before men who persecute us:

Matthew 10:16-18 - Behold, I am sending you out as **sheep in the midst of wolves**, so be wise as serpents and **innocent as doves**. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. (ESV)

Philippians 2:15-16 - that you may be blameless and innocent, **children of God without blemish** in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Forgive one another in Christ and be obedient, and hold no grudge for those in darkness, but try to be the light of the world to them, show them the love of God and the truth of God. Be obedient to Christ in everything that we are not outwitted by Satan:

II Corinthians 2:5-11 - Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are **obedient in everything**. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (ESV)

I conjecture that, effectively, **Obedience = Believing the gospel, and Selfless love** (no longer serving yourself but serving Christ. It's obeying Jesus.).

Nevertheless, where we fall short of obedience, Jesus has us covered. But if we are keeping Jesus' commandments then we're abiding in His love.

Is it crucial to obey the gospel? Yes. Is that a 'works-based' gospel? If we must put a label on it, I'd describe it more of a **my-willingness-to-work-serving-Christ-based-on-Jesus'-finished-works-and-God-working-in-me-based** gospel.

When we walk in trusting, believing, obedient faith, God works in us and to deliver us and makes our paths straight for us:

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jude 1:21 - keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

Although, we will arrive at rest:

Heb 4:1-6 - Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest, although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: And God rested on the seventh day from all his works. And again in this passage he said, They shall not enter my rest. Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,

Heb 4:9-11 - So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

We work then find rest:

Revelation of John 14:13 - And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! (ESV)

That rest looks like living for the will of God (i.e. faith in Jesus, faith in God, our sanctification, keeping His commandments, putting a stop to breaking the 10 commandments from the heart, putting a stop to false-witnessing, idolatry etc., so faith in God believing the gospel, producing agape love especially for our family in Christ):

I Peter 4:1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

Psalms 46:10 - "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (NASB)

Jesus is our rest:

youtube.com: Are Christians Required to Keep the Sabbath? | Sam Shamoun Responds {@faithwithreason}

The Ten Commandments is still binding on Christians. They're right because the New Testament says we still follow those ten commandments. So why don't we keep the Sabbath? Brother, we do keep the Sabbath, but we don't keep the Sabbath given to Israel. We keep God's Sabbath. There is the original Sabbath and the Sabbath enjoined on Israel, which is a shadow, not the reality.

The moment you trusted in Christ that day, you entered God's rest and you remained there by faith till the end.

As you can see, the disciples still generally followed the commandment to rest on the Sabbath day:

Luke 23:56 - Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. (ESV)

But Jesus is lord of the Sabbath:

Mark 2:27-28 - And he said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath. (ESV)

And we enter into God's rest as we are trusting in Jesus:

Hebrews 4:6-11 - Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, Today, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (ESV)

Resting from our works doesn't mean resting from love (which is in the heart) and it doesn't mean resting from obedience (which is in the heart), since we have to hold our faith in Jesus in a law-abiding way (that is loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbour as ourself). Without the law-abiding love, the type of faith one would be resting in would be an unlawful faith, a demonic faith:

Hebrews 4:8-10 - For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (ESV)

The peace Jesus gives is not "peace on Earth" with just anyone:

Matthew 10:32-38 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

It's peace between those who God is pleased with:

Luke 2:14 - Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! (ESV)

It's peace "in Christ" with each other and with God's Kingdom in heaven and earth:

Colossians 1:20 - and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (ESV)

It's peace with God for those who have faith in Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:23-25,5:1-2 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

It's peace for those who do good:

Romans 2:9-11 - There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

God trains us through discipline for holiness to behave righteously and the fruit of that yields peace:

Hebrews 12:10-11 - For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (ESV)

So in resting from our works, we remain ready and prepared to do good works opportunistically (as they are given to us, as keeping a good conscience with God would require them to be done). So the rest is resting with a faith that is still maintaining a genuine agape-love for God and for one's neighbour, especially their family in Christ. But so long as we are keeping Christ's law lawfully trusting in Him and loving one-another as He has commanded and demonstrated, we are permitted to rest and are not duty bound to perform tasks that are not within Christ's law.

Since God has prepared the good works for us to walk in, God is ultimately in control of dispensing these good works, as we receive them, walking in them faithfully, lovingly and obediently!

What resting from our works means is that maintaining our law-abiding obedience and good conscience with God takes priority over just doing things habitually or under constraint. It doesn't mean habitual or religious tasks are evil. It just means that we are allowed to rest in a law-abiding faith in Jesus, and that when religion tries to rob you of that rest, that's when religion is unhelpful.

Now, a law-abiding faith doesn't close their heart to a brother in need. A law-abiding faith is still ready and prepared to love our family in Christ in word and deed and truth. But like Paul says, if he has not love, such good works profit him nothing. The heart attitude of law-abiding love and the works that come from that heart are different things. So even when resting from one's works, we must retain the law-abiding love.

I Corinthians 13:2 - And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love (**26. agapé - treasuring, valuing love**), I am nothing. (ESV)

So when we do rest from our works, it would be either because we have exhausted our current supply of good works, or because doing them would be unlawful (i.e. would be not done in faith, or not done in love). For example, if doing some "good deed" would at the same time break the 2 Great Commandments, then it would be unlawful.

And it's absolutely fine to continue doing good as a Christian. So resting from our works is not about ceasing to do good, it's just about having faith in / trusting in Christ. Having put our faith in Christ, we enter His rest. We want to do that obediently, putting down idols, etc. ("Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience"). We must not misconstrue doing good and obeying God as opposing the cross of Christ. But it's perfectly fine to work out (perform) our salvation, taking every thought captive for obedience to Christ, and arrive at the point where it's not burdensome to keep Christ's commandments:

Luke 6:9-10 - And Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? And after looking around at them all he said to him, Stretch out your hand. And he did so, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:3 - For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest, although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:8-10 - For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (ESV)

We enter God's rest **while** we are believing in Christ. The day is today. Every day is the Sabbath:

Hebrews 4:7-12 - again he appoints a **certain day, Today**, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath

rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. **Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (ESV)

We obey Jesus' commandments in faith and we persevere with that, striving to obey Jesus, striving to remain faithful to Jesus and at some point we enter rest which Jesus gives us. Our Master, Jesus, who we obey gives us the rest, and He gives it to us while we hold our faith in Him and abide in His commandments. OK so, living by total dependance on Jesus, giving yourself away to others, believing that Jesus will provide what we need as we continue trying to do the right thing by Jesus, can sometimes feel like living precariously when we lose faith, but it is not precarious. Like God providing manna in the wilderness to the Israelites and all the Israelites had to do was continue trusting and obeying God, and God provided what they needed, we too go through this phase where God is teaching us to depend on Him. But at some point we arrive in the "promised land" of rest as He sanctifies us and His commandments no longer feel burdensome. At some point, it starts to feel like not just trying to help others but now others helping us. We enter the promised land of God's rest together. That's how I think it generally works. But Jesus gives the rest, right? So there's no onus on us or command from Jesus to us to purposefully cease endeavouring to make spiritual sacrifices in order to enter this rest. As far as I understand, we continue obeying Jesus and Jesus grants the rest:

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

The people who walked past the man dying on the street were resting in the way that the devil wants us to rest - i.e. to rest in sin. But Jesus has **commanded** us to do as the good Samaritan did. A person who takes the yoke of Jesus, keeps Jesus' commandments and at the point where they are no longer burdensome to us, we can know that we have come to know Him:

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. **Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.** But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, **You go, and do likewise.** (ESV)

II John 1:4-7 - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (ESV)

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

This rest Jesus gives us involves taking Jesus' yoke, keeping His commandments and making spiritual sacrifices that are pleasing/acceptable to God like what the good Samaritan did:

Matthew 11:27-30 - All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

II John 1:8-10 - Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

When we talk about 'merit' or 'credit', we were enabled to even be able to have merit in suffering for righteousness sake because Jesus bore our sins on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 'Live to righteousness' means walking in the light, walking in love and truth, practicing works that please God, making spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 13:1-8 says that without love (love that rejoices with the truth) we gain nothing. God loved us first and has chosen us to be a holy people for His possession, and we can now make spiritual sacrifices which God finds acceptable through Jesus Christ our Lord who we are holding faith in and who has loved us first, laying down His life for us first:

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. **Love the brotherhood.** Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

While trying to keep Jesus' commandments, and resist the lies deterring me from keeping Jesus' commandments (including to commandments to turn away from sin and to do as the good Samaritan does, and to have faith in Father God and in Him), the devil tries to deter me from obedience to Jesus. Other Christians, exclusively protestants, I have found, will say things like, "accept grace", "stop trying to work for your salvation, etc." and calling obedience to Jesus what I need to 'rest' from doing, etc. but missing the point in that my labouring isn't labouring in worldly ways, such as trying to get ahead in the "rat race" or to "keep investing my time and money and attention in the stock market until my money is supporting me", but, rather, it's labouring to resist sin and take every thought captive for obedience to Christ, as I do this the God of Peace will crush Satan under my feet. So the pressure from worldly / misinformed / 'disobedient' Christians does make it even more challenging to maintain Jesus' works.

Jeremiah 23:32 - Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD. (ESV)

So it's still extremely important for us to try to keep His commandments, and His commandments are to love God and one another as He loved us, selflessly.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

And I wont stop following Jesus Christ until I know Him as personally as possible - I want His thoughts running through my mind like Father God's thoughts ran through His. Anything less than that and I am unsatisfied.

I Corinthians 2:11-16 - For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

Jesus knows us and we know Jesus:

John 10:14 - I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, (ESV)

We must be keeping Jesus' commandments for us to be sure that we have come to know Him:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

Jesus commands us to take His yoke (obey Him) and learn from Him (believe Him):

Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (ESV)

So receive the words of Jesus and the Apostles to know the thoughts of God inside your own mind:

I Corinthians 2:11-14 - For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (ESV)

We need to perform our salvation in obedience to God:

Philippians 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Work Out What Christ Has Won: The Christian Life as Gift and Duty

youtube.com: The Gift of Sanctification {@desiringGod} @time: 9 min 35 sec You work. Work out your salvation. Make choices, have preferences. Do deeds. Because, God is in you, making those choices, doing those deeds, causing those preferences. They are yours because they are a gift from Him.

Sermon youtube.com: Be Who You Are: Living Out Identity in Christ, Part 1

Jesus first made Paul His own, now Paul wants to press on to perfection/completion:

Philippians 3:11-12 - that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

When it comes to being saved to serve Christ, we can't boast that in some way we earned salvation outside of God's gift/grace:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

Romans 11:32 - For God has consigned all to disobedience (543. *apeitheia* - *willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience*), that he may have mercy on all. (ESV)

Let's see what the word **katergazomai** (the word for 'work out') means:

- Philippians 2:12 (Interlinear)

1	5620	27	1473	2531	3842	5219	3361	5613	1722	3588
2	Hōste	agapētoi	mou	kathōs	pantote	hypēkousate	mē	hōs	en	tē
3	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	
4	Therefore	beloved	of me	just as	always	you have obeyed	not	as	in	the
5	Conj	Adj-VMP	PPro-G1S	Adv	Adv	V-AIA-2P	Adv	Adv	Prep	Art-DFS
1	3440	235	3568	4183	3123	1722	3588	666	1473	3326
2	monon	alla	nyn	pollō	mallon	en	tē	apousia	mou	meta
3	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	
4	only	but	now	much	more	in	the	absence	of me	fear
5	Adv	Conj	Adv	Adj-DNS	Adv	Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	PPro-G1S	N-GMS

'Work out' (**G2716 katergazomai**) means here to perform your salvation by work (which has yet still been gifted to us, and the salvation which we are performing is not the result of works) - so I think it's more like 'walk' 'perform' "obey" similarly to the Israelites through the Red Sea, but with respect to obeying the gospel, rather than 'work' in any way that is not in obedience to the gospel:

1	5156	3588	1438	4991	2716
2	tromou	tēn	heautōn	sōtērian	katergazesthe
3	.				
4	trembling	-	your own	salvation	work out
5	N-GMS	Art-AFS	RefPro-GM3P	N-AFS	V-PMM/P-2P
1	:	2716	katergazomai	kat-er-gad'-zom-ahee	
2					
3	from	2596	and	2038;	to work fully, i.e. accomplish; by implication, to
4	finish,	fashion:-	--cause,	to (deed),	perform, work (out).
5	see	GREEK	for	2596	
6	see	GREEK	for	2038	

gospel-of-grace-faq.josephprince.org: Is Philippians 2:12 telling us we need to work for our salvation? - Questions About the Gospel of Grace

If you have trusting faith in God then you will walk according to the will of God (walk the way Jesus Christ calls us to walk in obedience to Jesus, as a response of love to God in the knowledge He loved us first). **Led by the Spirit = following Jesus.**

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, **he must follow me;** and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

That's not *working* but it is *walking* and it is being obedient to Jesus. The Israelites through the Red Sea were being led by the Spirit - they were not working for God as they walked in obedience:

Galatians 5:16-18 - But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But **if** you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Obedience to Christ is walking by the Spirit. We walk "**in**" the flesh (in fleshly bodies) but walk "**by**" the Spirit and in obeying Christ we are walking "**by**" the Spirit:

II Corinthians 10:3-6 - For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

Romans 8:3-5 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (ESV)

And this walking in obedience to Christ "**is**" sowing to the Spirit:

Galatians 6:8 - For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (ESV)

Obeying Jesus', keeping Jesus' commandments and walking by the Spirit are not mutually exclusive. In fact, it's very important to realise that, having gone from serving things that are not God to serving God, serving Jesus, to be walking in obedience to Jesus **is** to be walking by the Spirit:

John 6:63-64 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) (ESV)

So I think trusting Jesus, obeying Jesus and believing Jesus' words, and believing in Him should be **true simultaneously**, because people misconstrue Jesus' words to their own destruction. Do we have to obey Christ? Yes we do. We must abide by His teaching:

Matthew 7:13-16 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

We are saved from doing evil deeds, and brought into the will of God. Our faith is tested. That sounds like the straight and narrow to me:

I Peter 4:12-19 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

3.22.1 The Christian life is both gift and duty

Fighting sin is both a gift from God and a duty we act.

We have been given stewardship to exercise love that issues from a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith, as Paul was given stewardship:

I Timothy 1:4-5 - nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than **the stewardship** (3622. oikonomia) from God **that is by faith**. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

Ephesians 3:2 - assuming that you have heard of the stewardship (3622. oikonomia) of God's grace that was given to me for you, (ESV)

3622. oikonomia Usage: management of household affairs, stewardship, administration.

Increasing holiness is both a gift and a duty.

It is a gift of grace that we receive from Jesus and the way that we receive a gift that involves your thoughts, desires and behaviour is by having the thoughts, the desires and actions. It is a gift you live out, work out. It's a 'working out' of the salvation that is free-grace.

3.22.2 Jesus' obedience

I think that the ESV doesn't translate this very well because Jesus really was something. I prefer "emptied himself" as this appears to be more literally correct. See: interlinear.

Philippians 2:7-9 - but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (ESV)

Philippians 2:7-9 - but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name above all names, (engbsb2020eb)

I actually that emptied Himself seems more accurate than "made Himself of no reputation".

Philippians 2:7-9 - But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (KJV)

Consider this passage. The meanings of the words really matter as to modern English readers, we would consider "fame" and reputation to be very related:

Matthew 4:24 - So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. (ESV)

For this reason, I would say that "emptied Himself" might be more accurate.

3.22.3 Our following His example

How to grow in Christlikeness.

Philippians 2:12-18 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me. (ESV)

We follow the one who obeyed and was rewarded.

We work **out** the salvation He worked **for**.

Philippians 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (ESV)

- We self-humblyingly obey in joy for the reward.
- We self-humblyingly obey to please our Father.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

God's people no longer offer slaughtered animals, but we offer ourselves, all we are, our lives in obedience to Him. We are to practice personal holiness, putting a stop to sin, and living to serve God, and love one another:

Romans 12:1 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (ESV)

Do nothing from selfish-ambition or conceit:

Philippians 2:3 - Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but **in humility count others more significant than yourselves**. (ESV)

Do all things without grumbling or disputing:

Philippians 2:14 - Do all things without grumbling or questioning, (ESV)

It seems like we're saved (delivered) from (among other things):

- selfish ambition
- conceit
- grumbling

- [petty] disputing
- sin that leads to death

Titus 3:1-7 - Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

3.22.4 God working in us

God loved us first. We must accept that:

I John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

When we are believing in Jesus Christ's finished work and obeying Jesus, obeying His commandments, it is actually God who is working in us, transforming us, sanctifying us, restoring us:

Philippians 2:13 - for it is **God who works in you, both to will and to work** for his good pleasure. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me - Selah ~ 1 Hour Lyric Video

We serve Christ:

Matthew 25:40 - And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (ESV)

Mark 9:37 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me. (ESV)

If a person serves Christ, this is not a dead works-based gospel, but is simply obeying the gospel. That person has been brought into obedience by the grace of God.

II Peter 3:14-18 - Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

We are supposed to then proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light:

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

God is amazing. Because He made me born-again so I could come into a relationship with Him where I can truthfully say that I was stuck in my sin and God broke that sin off me through making me born-again, and has given me a new Spirit so I can walk in obedience to Him.

It's only possible through what Jesus Christ has achieved for us on the cross, because the blood of Jesus Christ redeems us as we abide in Him:

Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, (ESV)

Song Chris Tomlin - Holy Forever {Lyric Video} - YouTube

Hebrews 12:28-29 - Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for **our God is a consuming fire.** (ESV)

Even having faith in God through faith in Jesus is obedience according to Romans 16:26. **If a person is trusting in Him when they die, they will live.**

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith** — (ESV)

Also, faith in Jesus is obedience to Jesus, because we are instructed to **hold the faith without partiality** - that's faithfulness to God regarding seeking to do His will which includes obedience to His commandments:

James 2:1 - My brothers, show no partiality **as you hold the faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)

The Apostle Paul says something similar. Faith is a matter of being accountable to God, even with respect to law-keeping:

Romans 14:22 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. (ESV)

Through faith to Jesus we are justified - that's believing obedience, accountable to God - so it's quite important to bear one another's burdens because Jesus, our Master, commanded us to do it. We keep accountable to God with what we believe/do in obedience to Him:

Galatians 2:16 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but **through faith in Jesus Christ**, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (ESV)

We must go to Jesus to receive eternal life.

Our obedience is penitent, but our justification doesn't hang on our perfection. Our obedience should also be without partiality.

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Also I conclude that obeying Jesus Christ is having faith in Him.

3.22.5 God acts for those who wait for Him

God wants to be our strength. AMEN!!

What we should do now is acknowledge the LORD, keep our eyes on Jesus, and live godly lives (godliness is behaviour in accordance with the knowledge of God, believe the truth and walk in that truth, love the light, walk in the light, walk in the truth). Trust in the LORD to save us as we walk in the light (in obedience):

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

God acts for those who wait for Him:

Isaiah 64:4 - From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, **who acts for those who wait for him.** (ESV)

Also, waiting on the LORD our strength is renewed:

Isaiah 40:31 - but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (ESV)

We receive an anointing from God. God teaches us and we learn from it and abide in Him:

I John 2:27 - But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. (ESV)

God leads us into the truth:

John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (ESV)

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

We walk the way in which Jesus walked to abide in Jesus' love:

I John 2:6 - whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

I John 4:12 - No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

I John 4:16 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

I John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (ESV)

I John 3:14 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. (ESV)

I John 3:17 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

As we walk in the Spirit of Jesus, we are strengthened to walk as Jesus walked. We are ourselves empowered to walk as Jesus walked thanks to Jesus' own endurance, and that is unlocked by having believing, obedient, trusting, following faith in Jesus where we are being led by His Spirit, and are walking by His Spirit:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** (ESV)

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (ESV)

God provides the strength by which we do service to Him so that Jesus may be glorified and God may be glorified through Jesus:

I Peter 4:11 - Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; **whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,** to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (NASB)

God literally helps us if we ask Him for help:

Psalms 46:1-3 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. To the choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah. According to Alamoth. A Song. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah (ESV)

See how we obey Him and he helps us:

I John 3:21-23 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

As obedient children of God we ask God in prayer and if it's according to His will He hears us and he grants us our requests:

I Peter 1:14 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, (ESV)

I John 5:14-15 - And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. (ESV)

But we must forgive:

Mark 11:24-25 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (ESV)

Polycarp 6:2 If then we entreat the Lord that He would forgive us, we also ought to forgive: for we are before the eyes of our Lord and God, and we must all stand at the judgment-seat of Christ, and each man must give an account of himself.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Everlasting God

Psalms 68:5 - Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. (ESV)

Psalms 82:3-4 - Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. (ESV)

3.22.6 The free gift is God - God is the Gospel

We get out of the way everything that is an obstacle to enjoying God when we are forgiven. AMEN:

Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, (ESV)

Colossians 1:14 - in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Gospel Is Jesus Christ - Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon {@BishopBarron} So by the gospel, he meant Jesus' great ethical teaching to love, especially the poor and the marginalized. And he indeed was a man of great commitment to social justice. So that's what he meant by the gospel. But that's not the gospel. That's an ethical implication of the gospel. This is again many years ago. I was in a Protestant Catholic dialogue and the challenge given to us by the moderator (who was a Protestant) was I want each one around the table to say what's the gospel? So my Protestant interlocutors, most of them did a version of the gospel, "Is justification by grace through faith. That's the good news. You know, the great message of of Romans and Galatians, justification by grace through faith." Well, that indeed is Luther's

interpretation of Paul. And whatever you say about the relationship between, you know, faith and works and all that. May I suggest that's not the gospel. That's a doctrinal implication of the gospel. Now, I'm saying this because of this passage. Listen to Paul, the first great evangelizer, should know what he's talking about. Remember Jesus Christ raised from the dead, a descendant of David. Such is my gospel. What's the gospel, everybody? It's Jesus. And that's the answer, by the way, I gave around the table that day when they said, "Well, what's the gospel?" I said, "Jesus Christ, he's the good news. He's the glad tidings. Jesus himself." Mind you, I've said it before, but it bears repeating. Christianity is not a philosophy. It's not a set of ideas. It's not a "noble spiritual path." It's not a spirituality. It might be all those things by a kind of implication. Christianity is a relationship to Jesus. It's about him. It's about him. Not primarily his moral teachings. All that's great and it follows from him. But the gospel is Jesus.

II Timothy 2:8 - Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, (ESV)

3.22.7 God the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus - the righteousness of God apart from the law is received by faith

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the **righteousness of God has been manifested** apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the **righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe**. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be **received by faith**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that **he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus**. (ESV)

3.22.8 The point of justification - we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, and we are transformed

Sermon John Piper: God is the Gospel - YouTube @time: 40 min 42 sec

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. That's the point of justification. Who cares if we are righteous. We don't want to be God - we want to see the glory of God. But we want to be ready for it, walking righteously:

Luke 17:22-27,30 - And he said to the disciples, The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, Look, there! or Look, here! Do not go out or follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be *rejected by this generation*. **Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man**. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (ESV)

Luke 21:33-36 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. **For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth**. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (ESV)

The reason we want to be righteous is so we get God. We don't get put in hell.

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

Not only are we able to behold the glory of God, but we are **transformed!**

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory** of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another**. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

3.22.9 Why do we want to live righteously? To honour Christ

We want to honour/exalt/magnify Christ in our lives, to **trust** Him, **honour** Him, believe His promises, and even faithfully wait/hold to those promises, and even want others to see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God:

Philippians 1:20-21 - According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be **magnified** in my body, whether it be **by life, or by death**. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (KJV)

II Corinthians 4:4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (ESV)

John 14:9 - Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father? (ESV)

We want to obey God, and we will be transformed in this life:

There's a lot in the Bible to explain what is the revealed will of God. Continuing on in discerning the will of God we should have a renewed mind. We should obey Jesus:

youtube.com: How Do We Know the Will of God? | John Piper Clip {@desiringGod} The Bible does not tell you which person to marry, or whether to marry. The Bible does not tell you which car to drive, or buy, rent. The Bible doesn't tell you whether to buy a home or not which home to buy. [The] Bible doesn't tell you which brand of orange juice to drink. There are 10,000 decisions you must make that are not explicitly addressed in the Bible so what do you do? If you want to obey the will of command my answer is you must have a renewed mind. That's what the text says.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that **by testing** you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and **acceptable** and perfect. (ESV)

We end up thinking in a similar fashion to Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to **do** the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! **Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!** (ESV)

And have communion with God:

Revelation of John 3:4 - Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. (ESV)

youtube.com: Are There Some Things In The Bible That Christians Shouldn't Know? - Michael Heiser
Jesus said, "You have seen me. If you've seen me, you've seen the Father." And that's what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to be disciples of Jesus, follow him, and we will be conformed to His image, and He is the ultimate imager of God. Being a disciple is imaging God. You know, Jesus is our example, but that

little subject has an important long history in the Old Testament. We talked about the command, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" yesterday." We think that that refers to verbal abuse and misuse of God's name. And again, that's bad, but that isn't actually what the command means. The word "take", here we go back to Hebrew. The word *[thou shalt not] 'take' [the name of the Lord thy God in vain]*. Take there is)**H5375** 'nāśā', pronunciation: naw-saw'), which means to lift up, to support, to carry, to bear, like in bearing a burden. So the idea is don't bear the name of the Lord in a worthless manner in vain. See what does it mean to bear the name? If you're an employee of a company, you already know what it means. You bear the name of that company, you're that company's representative. If you're, you know, just a schmuck or something, then you know, somebody's going to meet you and this person treated me bad and so that company's bad. I mean, they're going to transfer the experience to the thing that is named. And that's the same thing that that these commands are talking about. The New Testament equivalent is kind of the verse that Paul gives Timothy in second Timothy where he says, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." You bear the name. You represent the thing named. And that's really what the command is about. So again, all of these things are have an Old Testament backdrop.

Psalms 102:15 - Nations will fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory. (ESV)

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (ESV)

I do agree with what Michael Heiser has said about bearing God's name. I think that breaking the commandment also involves declaring God's name in vain. Taking the Lord's name in vain involves using it in vain.

Matthew 6:9 - Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (ESV)

Psalms 113:2 - Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! (ESV)

3.23 Saved not by my own works done outside of Him but by His work

A thought If Jesus, your Lord, asked you to buy an icecream for someone to cheer them up, and then you obediently buy them an icecream, giving the glory to Jesus, then could it be said that it was Jesus who bought the icecream? Or could it be said that that work was done in Christ?

Not of our own works means not of works done outside of Jesus. Good works are works which are done out of faith, out of trusting obedience to His will.

Romans 15:17 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. (ESV)

When Clement says 'justified by works', he's talking about being justified by faith working through love, doing the law of God by doing the law (commandments) of Christ such as to love one another as He has loved us:

1 Clem 30:3 Let us therefore cleave unto those to whom grace is given from God. Let us clothe ourselves in concord, being lowlyminded and temperate, holding ourselves aloof from all back biting and evil speaking, being justified by works and not by words.

1 Clem 32:3 They all therefore were glorified and magnified, not through themselves or their own works or the righteous doing which they wrought, but through His will.

Romans 2:12-13 - For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified**. (ESV)

Yes, I believe that Jesus Christ has paid the price in full for me to be saved, and that is surely what I am leaning on. The price has been paid in full for me to be saved.

We are slaves to Christ and no other. We're not slaves to sin, we're not slaves to law, we're not slaves to men:

I Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:23 - You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. (ESV)

II Peter 2:1 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying **the Master who bought them**, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (ESV)

We still do not want to allow sin to reign in our bodies. We're dead to sin, and alive to God, we've been set free from sin and now we must let Jesus reign in our bodies. We must go on obeying Christ Jesus, and not obeying sin:

Romans 6:6-7 - We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. For anyone who has died has been freed from sin. (engbsb2020eb)

Genesis 4:7 - If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it. (ESV)

Romans 6:11-12 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. (ESV)

Yes, I am having faith in Jesus Christ of Nazareth as the Messiah, who paid the price for my sin. It's continuing to live by faith in Jesus:

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.** (ESV)

As we hold faith in Jesus, we continue to work for the Lord. Price paid in full doesn't mean going back to being a slave to sin. Price paid in full means Jesus bought us and we're slaves/bondservants to Jesus now:

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

Not by my works done outside of Him am I saved. He bought me. He will save me from the wrath of God. I continue to have faith in Him and serve and obey Him:

Romans 5:9 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (ESV)

By grace I am saved, through faith. The works that I do were prepared for me in advance that I should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

Through faith in Jesus Christ, Jesus dwells in our hearts. We are able to better comprehend the love of Christ while we are rooted and grounded in love:

Ephesians 3:14-21 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

We must continue to hold our faith in Jesus,. We are saved to perpetually trust, believe, love and obey God:

Romans 11:17-23 - But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:2 - and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

As we hold our faith in Jesus Christ's finished work we still continue to obey God and repent from sin and are sanctified into better obedience, better faith, better obedience of faith. We must get rid of the idols. Holiness is important.

When we believe God's word given through Jesus, we have passed from death to life. We should definitely then listen to Jesus to see what He has actually spoken.

We must be slaves of Christ, not slaves of sin, in order to abide forever in Him:

John 8:34-36 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

So what do we mean by "salvation"? In my understanding it's to be saved to continue in the knowledge of Jesus and Father God forever (if anyone claims to know Jesus but do not follow His commandments, they are a liar), believing the gospel, trusting His Word and obeying God. Abide in love. The one who abides in love abides in God. Important in defining what love is is that God loved us first by sending His Son to be propitiation for our sin. So the gospel and finished works of Christ is the cornerstone but we must not put Christ to the test. We must forsake idols, etc. follow God's commandments. We should be growing in holiness, and being sanctified, and we should be getting closer to Jesus, not further away. We must continue trusting and obeying Jesus:

I Corinthians 10:7-12 - Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore **let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.** (ESV)

John 17:1-3 - When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

Acts 10:43 - To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (ESV)

I believe that former sins are forgiven when we trust in His name, but that we must walk in the light, in the truth, confessing sin and loving one another (particularly our family in Christ) as He commanded for Jesus' blood to continue cleaning us. Jesus is our High Priest Advocating for us as we do this.

II Peter 1:9 - For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. (ESV)

I John 1:7-10 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

We obey the Law by obeying Jesus first and foremost. Serving Jesus we are able to fulfill the requirement of the law, so it's not lawlessness:

Romans 7:4 - Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. (ESV)

youtube.com: John Piper and Tim Keller Wrestle with Sanctification {@desiringGod} @time: 2 min 9 sec

I think Walder Marshall's The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification says it this way, that "you need the comforts of the Gospel in order to fulfill the law". So that's pretty much what I would say too.

We've got to follow Jesus to walk in the light:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

I John 1:6-10 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

We must love our family in Christ:

I John 3:13-17 - Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

For eternal salvation it's still vitally important to be getting holy trusting the gospel. The one who practices righteousness is obeying Jesus (obeying righteousness) while holding faith in the finished works of Christ (trusting in His righteousness). We must practice righteousness:

Romans 6:20-23 - When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

I John 3:2-7 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

It's vitally important for the believer to abide in love, abide in God, and love comes from God.

I John 4:15-16 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

It's also vitally important for the believer for their eternal security to love our family in Christ:

Psalms 139:20-21 - They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain! Do I not hate (H6962. quwt, loathe) those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

I John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

Romans 6:16-19 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. (ESV)

I want to make a distinction between simply "works" (which may be dead, not done in faith) and obedience. There are things such as loving our family in Christ and forgiving them, or not withholding from helping their family in Christ who is in need which is obedience to God which is not dead works. For example, if I choose to not lie to one another that isn't a work.

I John 3:17 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

We're saved to live like this.

Could receiving "one such child in Jesus Christ's name" be regarded as a work that is trusting in oneself apart from Christ? No, because trusting Jesus is obeying Jesus and obeying Jesus is trusting Jesus. Trusting and obeying Jesus are not mutually exclusive:

Mark 9:37 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me. (ESV)

John 13:20 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. (ESV)

I personally believe that we cooperate with God for "salvation". i.e. reception is obedience is working with God. I.e. faith and obedience are not mutually exclusive, but "obedience" shouldn't be misconstrued with Mosaic-law-keeping:

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

Matthew 10:40 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. (ESV)

We believe him and that's not our work but God's work.

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

God wants to bring people to the obedience of faith. We have to hear Jesus' word and believe God who sent Him - we have to believe what God has told Jesus to tell us:

Luke 9:35 - And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him! (ESV)

Listening to Jesus, we are already obeying the will of God, who commanded us to listen to Him:

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (ESV)

God does work in us when we put our trust in Him, when we trust and obey His Word.

3.23.1 Under the right conditions, I don't see a problem with 'working' for God

The motivation has to be right. We do work for God to honour God, and as a response to Him loving us first, and as a response of love for Him forgiving us first, and giving us the gift of eternal life.

We are instructed to work for God:

II John 1:8 - Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. (ESV)

In believing in Jesus, we are guaranteed an inheritance in heaven:

Ephesians 1:13,14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

The inheritance is in heaven:

I Peter 1:4 - to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (ESV)

We work for the Lord while believing in Jesus:

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

So once again, we are actually instructed to work for God, but it's not wrong under the right conditions:

Hebrews 6:10 - For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. (ESV)

All the Apostle Paul is saying here, I think is that in "working for God" doesn't imply you have accepted a gift. But, yes, you **can** accept the gift (believe in Jesus) and under that condition work for God:

Romans 4:4 - Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. (ESV)

We still really do need to accept the free gift! Actually, it's imperative, no matter how much we've been attempting to work for God, that we accept the free gift from God:

Romans 4:5-8 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. (ESV)

Yes, we must turn from our wicked ways to obey God - absolutely!:

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

The free gift is eternal life **in Christ Jesus, our Lord:**

Romans 6:20-23 - When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have **become slaves of God**, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (ESV)

After believing in Jesus, we must turn from our wicked ways and serve God:

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

Jesus is the definitive Son of God. But we may be adopted as sons through faith in Jesus:

John 1:14 - And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

Galatians 3:26-29 - for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

Jesus has literally taught people that if we love our enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return we will be rewarded and be sons of the Most High. This shows that obedience to Jesus is just part of having faith in Jesus:

Luke 6:35-36 - But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

The prophets, saints, and servants of Jesus will be rewarded:

Revelation of John 11:18 - The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:12-14 - We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. (ESV)

I just want to be clear that good works we do in obedience to Jesus are still considered a gift to us. We work out what God has worked for. It's even a gift to be in position of being able to do good works in service to Jesus after He has washed us:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

- **Eph 2:8** - For by grace you have been saved through faith (G4102 pistis); and that not of yourselves, it is the gift (G1435 doron) of God; (NASB)
- **Eph 2:9** - not as a result of works (G2041 ergon), so that no one may boast. (NASB)
- **Eph 2:10** - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (G2041 ergon), which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (NASB)

1 : 1435 doron do'-ron

2

3 a present; specially, a sacrifice:--gift, offering.

1 : 2041 ergon er'-gon

2

3 from a primary (but obsolete) ergo (to work); toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication, an act:--deed, doing, labour, work.

Work being done by God in us to sanctify us and bring us fruit for everlasting life **is** work done in faith:

Romans 6:22 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. (ESV)

Matthew 3:8 - Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. (ESV)

We must be abiding in Jesus to produce fruit, and that means we must have faith in Jesus:

John 15:4 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (ESV)

OK, so we should confess (G3670 homologeo) that Jesus is the Son of God and continue obeying Him in faith:

I John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (ESV)

So the problem isn't work (even work relating to salvation) but the problem is work that is not done in faith (i.e. dead work).

Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (ESV)

Philippians 3:9 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that **depends on faith** — (ESV)

I think that the breastplate of righteousness (breastplate of faith and love) **depends** on faith and love. To love God and our neighbour is our duty:

I Thessalonians 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 12:13 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

Persevere to lack in nothing. This perseverance is done in faith:

James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (engbsb2020eb)

The faith Paul talks about is faith towards God. The faith towards God believes God and believes Jesus:

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

I believe that anyone who trusts (is trusting) in the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, even they have no works, but only a trusting heart, believing what Jesus said, and putting their hope in Jesus for their salvation, repentant and willing to obey (obedient), theoretically are to be in Christ if God does it. I consider that obedience to Jesus and turning away from sin is essential to be found in Him. If someone dies while trusting in Him they will live. If someone trusts in Him while they live they will never die.

Song Hillsong+Delirious? - History Maker

3.24 Eternal security for those who follow Jesus

Sermon Eternal Security - Charles Spurgeon Sermon - YouTube @time: 25 min 13 sec

At the stage they trust in Jesus, they may have no work but I believe at that stage they are justified, when in their heart is obedient, trusting, believing faith in Christ who is their life. But I'm not the one to justify them, God is. And I assume that Jesus knows who those people are - He knows that they are His sheep, and that Father God draws those people to Him. And when they go through Jesus Christ, the door, they are saved.

I believe that if a person trusts and believe on God in their heart, believing that they need saving and that Jesus Christ is their Lord and that Jesus Christ died for their transgressions and was raised for their justification - that they have a hearing heart and a heart that follows Him - that they will be saved.

I simply see no enmity between trusting God for justification through the finished work of the cross by Jesus Christ and trusting God by obeying Jesus Christ. I believe that is a false dichotomy. While faith alone saves, I believe that both belief and obedience (willingness to do the will of God) are intrinsic qualities of faith. God justifies the one who places their faith in Jesus. Having faith in Jesus looks like believing Him and obeying Him. Faith in Jesus looks like trusting Jesus. Therefore, I just focus on trusting Jesus in belief and obedience, and assume God is taking care of the justification issue.

Christian love:

Talk Believing Loving and Obeying and abiding in the presence of the Holy Spirit - YouTube

We want Jesus, so we should treasure Jesus:

Psalms 37:4 - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (ESV)

Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

Jesus must be our number 1 heart's desire. If we treasure Jesus and His words and deeds, and are obediently turning from our sin, confessing sin as sin and confessing our sin as sin as we go along (i.e. we are being corrected by obedience to the Truth, walking in the light), then we should not feel unworthy to be able to come to church. If we admit we are great sinners in need of a great Saviour with an attitude of love for Jesus, then you'd be amongst fellow believers who also know they are great sinners in need of a great Saviour with an attitude of love for Jesus:

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

God wants Him to be our treasure. We must obey Jesus and Jehovah Jireh will provide:

Job 22:24-26 - if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. (ESV)

We must love Jesus by keeping His commandments:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

If we treasure Jesus, and make Jesus our number 1 heart's desire, we will be able to keep Jesus' commandments:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

We must give ourselves first to the Lord Jesus:

II Corinthians 8:3-5 - For they gave *according to their means*, as I can testify, and *beyond their means, of their own free will*, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (ESV)

And following Jesus' commandments we will love one another:

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

3.25 Assurance of salvation

For full assurance, do all the will of God for you.

The will of God:

- Arrive at maturity and fully assured in **all** the will of God
 - We must look at what all of the will of God is for us and endeavour to be mature and fully assured with all of it
 - * **Colossians 4:12** - Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in **all** the will of God. (ESV)
- Have faith in Jesus Christ
 - **John 6:40** - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)
- Be transformed by the renewal of your mind
 - **Romans 12:2** - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)
 - We must take every thought captive to be obedient to Christ
 - * **II Corinthians 10:5-6** - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)
- We want our mind to be the mind of Christ

- * **I Corinthians 2:16** - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)
- Be a servant of Christ
 - **Ephesians 6:6** - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, (ESV)
- Give thanks in all circumstances
 - **I Thessalonians 5:18** - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (ESV)
- Abstain from evil
 - **I Thessalonians 4:3-8** - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)
 - **Romans 16:19-20** - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Then we arrive at having done the will of God for us, to the salvation of our souls:

Hebrews 10:36-39 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

I Peter 1:6-9 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

Mark 3:35 - Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother. (ESV)

We must receive Jesus, come to Jesus and believe His words, and endeavour to keep His commandments, loving one another in Christ:

John 5:39-47 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

John 6:35-41 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. **All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.** For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. **For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.** So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. (ESV)

We come to Jesus by faith obeying Him from the heart:

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Matthew 14:28-29 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. (ESV)

- Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God
- everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments

I John 5:1-6 - **Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (ESV)

The Apostle John delivers I John 5 to his audience (and to us) that we can have assurance of eternal life. Receiving Jesus, accepting the gospel and keeping God's commandments given through Jesus certainly should give us assurance of our salvation. God's testimony is greater. We must believe the Gospel.

I John 5:9-13 - If we receive the testimony of men, **the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.** Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

II Corinthians 6:1,6:16-18,7:1 - Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

web.sermonaudio.com: DTBM - body, soul and spirit - Dr. John Barnett The reason we're supposed to keep clean and not let our flesh and spirit get defiled is that God made a promise. He says, "I'm going to dwell in you. I'm going to walk among you. I'm going to be your God. You're going to be my people." And this is what we're supposed to do, verse 17: "Come out from among them, be separate. Don't touch what is unclean and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you. You'll be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Boy, that is about the most assuring verse in the Bible. God says, I'm gonna live in you. I'm your father, you're my children. You're going to know and go through life knowing that you belong to me and that I live within you and you're never alone and I'm always with you and all that stuff. What happens if you don't obey the "don't touch what is unclean" part, verse 17? You lose that assurance.

3.26 Some indicators to know for sure you are saved and being saved

Talk This is how you can know for SURE that you are saved | Assurance of Salvation | Kaci Nicole - YouTube
@time: 12 min 59 sec

For assurance of salvation, here's some indicators:

- Trust in Jesus. Pursuaded by Jesus Christ
 - Believe that He is the Messiah and Son of God
- Humility. Broken over their sin, and grateful by what Jesus has done.
 - A change of heart like the example of the repentant thief (Read: **Matt 27:43-44** and **Luke 23:39-43**).
 - * the repentant thief had come to a place of humility and fear of God
 - * he had an awareness of his own sin and the reality of judgement
 - * he knew that it was only by Jesus, not by his own works that he could be saved
 - * he affirmed the Lordship and deity of Christ
 - A hatred of one's own sin
 - Accepted forgiveness from God
- Treasuring and valuing Jesus and His words
- Obedience to Jesus
 - Passing forward forgiveness and mercy to others
- That you have kept the faith despite trials and testing
 - What I mean by this is that confidence grows as you go through trials
- Receiving the Spirit of God
- Believing the testimony that God has borne of His Son (Read: I John 5:9-13 and Hebrews 6:17-20)
- Treasuring our family in Christ (Read: I John 3:14-20)
 - It's true that like Abraham, confidence will come as a result of keeping the faith and continuing to obey God

I John 3:21-23 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

An indication that we have passed from death to life is that we agapé / treasure our family in Christ:

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

We must believe God's testimony concerning Jesus. God's testimony is greatest:

I John 5:9-13 - If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

Hebrews 6:17-20 - So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

Doing what pleases God brings confidence, as **I John 3:21-23** says.

1. A change of heart towards humility, fear of God, belief and trust in Jesus to be saved, an awareness of one's own sin and the reality of judgement, and acknowledging Jesus' Lordship and deity:

All the thief could do was look to Jesus and cry out for mercy but thankfully that is all he needed.

My thoughts: I still think that the thief obeyed the gospel by submitting to the righteousness of God. He had obeyed the gospel, even preached the gospel from his cross, and was no longer an enemy of the cross of Christ. I think if given the opportunity he would have continued on in obedience to Jesus and even in good works of service to Jesus because of his repentant heart. He acknowledged Jesus was righteous and did not deserve the punishment that they deserved, he asked Jesus to remember him in His kingdom, and had the fear of God in his heart which would have caused him to not turn from God.

Is repentance from sin necessary for salvation? It generally is necessary. We renounce the sinful habits and God cleans us up as we obey Him by faith. The liberty that God provides is not being a slave/servant of sin/corruption. God's grace trains us to renounce sin, and it's not for us to double-down on sin:

II Peter 2:14-20 - Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a

tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, **they allure through the lusts of the flesh**, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. **While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption:** for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour (KJV)

If a person is unrepentant from sin then it is better that their body is destroyed so their spirit may be saved. In the case of the thief on the cross, his body **was** destroyed. If he stayed around, he probably would have renounced ungodliness and pursued holiness:

I Corinthians 5:1-5 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

This was all that was required of him for salvation and the same is true for us (in terms of minimums) but we should continue in faith, love and obedience:

The thief didn't get to go learn the bible, or get baptised or begin to follow Jesus in the way that he lived, but that is not to say that those things are not important because they are. Those are things that God has commanded us to do, and if we love God then we should want to be obedient in doing those things. The distinction is that those things don't earn our salvation but they are the fruit of a heart that has truly put faith in Jesus. I think that the thief would have gone on to do those things, he just never had a chance. But you might be thinking: I don't always obey Jesus. I still wrestle with sin and the answer is that you won't perfectly obey Jesus. You will still have sin in your life because Jesus will be continuing to work that out in you until the day that you die. But if you desire to know the God of the Bible and to love God and to obey God's word, that in itself is evidence that God is at work in your heart because we cannot do those things on our own. Even if we aren't yet fully where we know we ought to be with those things, the fact that they're there is an indication and that we are continuing to grow in grace.

Both robbers start off mocking Jesus but then one of the robbers has a change of heart:

Matthew 27:43-44 - He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, I am the Son of God. And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. (ESV)

Mark 15:32 - Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe. Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. (ESV)

Luke 23:39-43 - One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us! But the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. And he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. And he said to him, Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. (ESV)

The fear of God should mean we want to do what pleases God - it's a heart that wishes to have a good conscience with God - wishes for God's commendation and not His wrath:

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)

We want to always have the fear of God:

Proverbs 14:27 - The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. (ESV)

Malachi 1:6 - A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, How have we despised your name? (ESV)

It's great having a good conscience with God, and a relationship with God:

Proverbs 23:17 - Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. (ESV)

We're supposed to live this way as Christians:

Acts 9:31 - So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied. (ESV)

2. We must have a hatred of one's own sin:

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (ESV)

To be a Christian doesn't mean that we are without sin this side of heaven, but it does mean that we have a hatred for our own sin, that we are wrestling with the flesh that is still inside us even as Jesus is making us new, rather than being complacent over our sin.

Romans 7:19-20 - For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (ESV)

It's really important to turn from sin:

I John 3:5-6 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him.

We endeavour to be justified through faithful obedience to Jesus, and if we fall short, we still believe Christ has us covered. But we do endeavour, we do try:

Galatians 2:17 - But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! (ESV)

I Peter 3:15 - but **in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy**, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; (ESV)

[youtube.com: Paul Washer - Ongoing Sin @time: 2 min 16 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOGXWzgkQHc)

3. Our faith has been tested, and results in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ:

I Peter 1:6-7 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

3.26.1 By the Spirit Jesus has given us

II Corinthians 1:22 - and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (ESV)

I John 4:13-16 - By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:7-9 - for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, (ESV)

3.27 Indicators that we are of the truth

A strong indicator that we are of the truth is that against every condemnation, we know God is greater than our heart and knows everything

I John 3:18-20 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

A strong indicator that we are of the truth is that we have the fear of Jehovah God in our hearts, that we do not turn from Him:

Jeremiah 32:40 - I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And **I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.** (ESV)

More strong indicators that we are of the truth are that:

- if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God:
 - because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him
 - * we know we are believing in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and
 - * we know we are loving one another in just the way He has commanded us (I John 3:14-20, I John 5:1-2),
 - and in deed also gives us extra confidence
 - His commandments have become unburdensome for us
 - Things like not rendering evil for evil, doing as the good Samaritan, not committing blasphemy, idolatry, adultery, false-witness, etc.
 - Even thanking God, praying, etc.

I John 3:21-23 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Who is of God listens to us:

I John 4:6 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

We know that God abides in us by the Spirit whom He has given us:

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

4 Following Jesus

Isaiah 30:20-21 - And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, **This is the way, walk in it**, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

God wants us to do things His way.

Numbers 22:28-32 - Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times? And Balaam said to the donkey, Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you. And the donkey said to Balaam, Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way? And he said, No. Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. And the angel of the LORD said to him, Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. (ESV)

I believe the above prophetically talks about Jesus. We must obey Jesus. God doesn't guarantee that following Jesus will be easy.

Song youtube.com: Steve Apirana - I Have Decided

John 6:44-46 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. (ESV)

II John 1:6 - And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the **commandment**, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should **walk in it**. (ESV)

II Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known **the way of righteousness** than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Matthew 21:32 - For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

4.1 Being led by the Spirit is not license to sin

Freedom isn't "license to sin without consequences" but it's license to choose who you will obey, but to choose sin would be defiling and enslaving, but to choose to obey Jesus is purifying and liberating.

youtube.com: Donald Trump: "Two Corinthians..." {C-SPAN} {@CSPAN} @time: 26 sec 2 Corinthians 3:17. That's the whole ball game. Where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

Joshua 24:15 - And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (ESV)

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Repenting from sin, including such things as idolatry, witchcraft, jealousy and sexual immorality is all a part of following Jesus and being led by the Spirit.

Sermon youtube.com: The Trademarks of Witchcraft - Derek Prince

Practicing witchcraft, for example, is definitely not loving your neighbour as yourself.

youtube.com: Halloween warning from an ex-witch {warning heavy talk} {@Jesusistruth3} @time: 12 m

But, you know, how back in the day people would dress in costumes to look like they are evil spirits to camouflage so they would conform to the evil to be left alone.

Now isn't that so true in our christian walk when we are a light when we are Christ's we are then attacked. I mean, I had no idea when I was involved in the occult that was really riddled with demons, really riddled with so much darkness until I came to Christ and He filled me with his light and then those things were revealed and exposed for what they were.

Being led by the Spirit and obeying God, repenting from sin and passing forward love and forgiveness, we have our souls purified:

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

4.2 Walk by the Spirit = Obey Jesus = Led by the Spirit = Walk in the light as He is in the light

- Walk in the truth
 - Walk in a way that is in alignment, allegiance and agreement with Jesus and Jesus' teachings.
- Under Christ, in Christ, following Christ, aligning to Christ and His teachings
- Being sanctified in the Truth

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, **he must follow me;** and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

Keeping a clean room can be walking in the light but it might also not be. What matters is whether or not a person is trusting, believing and obeying Jesus. It's the heart that matters.

The Spirit is Jehovah. So if we trust His word and obey Him (and we're instructed to follow Jesus):

Romans 8:12 - So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Jeremiah 17:5 - Thus said Jehovah: Cursed is the man who doth trust in man, And hath made flesh his arm, And from Jehovah whose heart turneth. (YLT)

II Corinthians 3:14-18 - But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord (3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*), are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) who is the Spirit. (ESV)

Jesus is our Teacher and Lord. So we must trust Him and imitate Him as Teacher, and trust in Him and obey Him as Lord:

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

4.2.1 The light

Light Light is effectively, the agape (treasuring, soul-binding) love of the Truth in Truth - in Truth, agape loving the Truth and those who belong to the Truth. Darkness is not having the agape love of the Truth but rather agape-loving darkness. Light is walking in agape love of the Truth and agape love of those who belong to the Truth. And doing good to all, desiring all to come to the knowledge of the Truth, and for the sake of the Truth and God's desire of all to come to the knowledge of the Truth to demonstrate obedience to the Truth for others and do good to others, even our enemies. We **must** agape those who are in the light, who are our family in Christ. We don't bind ourselves to darkness or to demons.

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

I John 2:9-10 - Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:9-10 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (ESV) **John 12:46** - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (ESV)

We don't want to remain in darkness:

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

Loving the Truth, we also want those who are in darkness to come to the knowledge of the Truth. We follow Jesus' example to be lights of world:

John 14:30-31 - I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here. (ESV)

John 1:9 - The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (ESV)

John 9:5 - As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (ESV)

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

Matthew 5:14 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (ESV)

The new commandment is true in Jesus and should be true in us. The commandment is to love one another - we **must** love those who are in Christ:

II John 1:5 - And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. (ESV)

I John 2:4-13 - Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a **new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you**, because the darkness is passing away and **the true light is already shining**. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. (ESV)

To be reassured that we are of the Truth and for our hearts to be reassured, we should also practice our love for the Truth, for God and our family in Christ and we should do good to all people and love them in the Truth which means to not agree with darkness and to not agree with those who are in darkness but to love them desiring that they too come to the knowledge of the Truth. We can do nothing apart from Jesus after all, so we have to do all things in love:

I John 3:18-20 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

I Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (ESV)

Psalms 145:9 - The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. (ESV)

II John 1:1-3 - The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. (ESV)

I John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (ESV)

We should speak the truth in love:

John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (ESV)

4.2.2 God loved us first, and forgave us first

Forgiveness from God is received by faith:

Romans 3:25 - whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show **God's righteousness**, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (ESV)

Which commandments must we keep? Jesus' commandments - Jesus' sayings and commands which Father God commanded Him to speak. Also, it's worth learning from the Apostles who were with Jesus. Some commandments of Jesus are divulged and better understood from their writings.

Jesus kept Father God's commandments including the commandment of what to say and speak to us. Jesus' words and sayings and commands which God gave Him to speak to us are what we should keep. His commandments are eternal life for us:

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

From infants in Christ to maturity, people who keep Jesus' commandments are found in Christ who is in God:

Romans 10:10 - For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:14 - For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

John 6:35-40 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)<

Ephesians 5:1-5 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Because God loved us *first*:

- The Apostle Paul endeavours to know Jesus ('makes it his own'. See **Php 3:9-13**) *because Jesus made Paul His own*
 - To be found in Jesus **is** what Paul describes as the righteousness from God that depends on faith
 - * **Philippians 3:8-12** - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)
 - * **I Thessalonians 5:8** - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)
 - * **I John 3:23-24** - And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.** **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)
 - * **Ephesians 6:14** - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, (ESV)

- * **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce **the righteousness that God requires**. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)
- We know Jesus by believing in Him and obeying His commandments, and when we love and forgive we know *God loved us and forgave us first*
- * **I John 2:3-6** - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
- We must love because *He loved us first* for God to abide in us
 - **Romans 5:7-8** - For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)
 - **I John 4:9-12** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)
- We must forgive as we have been forgiven
 - **Colossians 3:12-14** - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)
- We must be conformed to holiness
 - **I Peter 1:14-16** - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. (ESV)

God cancelled the record of debt of our sin with the blood of Jesus Christ:

Colossians 2:14 - by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (ESV)

I believe when I was born-again of the Spirit on 2 April 2022, my debt was cancelled. It's like being given a clean-slate. New creation (*kainē ktisis*) - All things new. Being born-again, we continue to

Now we must put to death what is earthly in us:

Colossians 2:11-17 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record

of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (ESV)

Colossians 3:1-6 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. (ESV)

Colossians 3:7-15 - In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:5-12 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. (ESV)

4.2.3 God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance from sin

We are supposed to have a response of **repentance from sin**. God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance from sin. And turning from sin is a loving response to grace given:

Romans 2:4 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (ESV)

We are supposed to have a response of love for Jesus. God's forgiveness should lead us to love God and want to obey Him:

Luke 7:42-43 - When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more? Simon answered, The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt. And he said to him, You have judged rightly. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: In Christ Alone {My Hope Is Found} - Adrienne Liesching | LYRIC VIDEO

It's for our own good that we stop sinning. Sin is burdensome and obeying sin leads to death:

II Timothy 3:6-9 - For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, **burdened with sins** and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:23 - Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Sin made against our own body is really bad for us. This is a warning:

I Corinthians 6:16-20 - Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Romans 13:14 - But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

Sin no more so that nothing worse happens:

John 5:14 - Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you. (ESV)

John 8:10-11 - Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more. (ESV)

Sin enslaves. We're supposed to stop doing it. Jesus payed the price of sin for us to set us free from it and we shouldn't let ourselves become enslaved by sin again.

Quote by Tim Keller When you do a sin, it has a powerful effect in which your own freedom - your freedom to want the good, to will the good, to think the good or understand the good is being undermined so that you are more and more by sin losing your freedom. It undermines your mind, it undermines your emotions and it undermines your will.

4.2.4 Subsequent behaviour - the Golden Rule and the Royal Law, faith working through love

When it comes to 'works' and 'law-keeping', I believe disciples of Jesus should know they have been forgiven by grace through faith and they should also practice their righteousness, but the "works" is not the "obedience". The works come out of obedience, out of being a "doer of the law". Christians should **both** submit to the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, having the imputed righteousness of Christ that we believe we have as we are walking with Christ and Christians should practice righteousness too (as Jesus said, "go and sin no more"), and Christians should seek to keep accountability primarily to God in regards to the law because He sees everything, and **secondarily** have good conscience with men, to love as Jesus loved, and give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's - and God owns our hearts - and we should be prepared to die for Jesus, and remain faithful to Jesus. When a person practices their righteousness, then they are "doers of the law" from the heart. A person who has accepted forgiveness for their sin by the atonement made in Jesus' blood should certainly endeavour after that to fulfill practically the Royal Law, that is to love one's neighbour as themself, even owing that to other people:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2-6 - **Bear one another's burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. **For each will have to bear his own load.** One who is taught the word **must share** all good things with the one who teaches. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having **purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love**, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

The Golden Rule, I think explains that we should behave like a child of Father God who is by nature Good and gives good gifts to His children, and gifts that are truly good, far exceeding any amount of favour we might show our own children. As we behave like a child of Father God, believing the gospel of Jesus, and loving with Christ's love, we can really say our Father is God, as a child takes after their parents, and a child of Father God behaves like Jesus and follows Jesus. We try to follow Jesus, and imitate Christ's pattern, as Christ is **the Son of God.**

youtube.com: Sin as Slavery - Timothy Keller Sermon When it comes to behavior when it comes to the behavior that religions ask and demand and urge upon us, there is almost absolute complete uniformity and universal consensus we're not supposed to tell lies, we're not supposed to break our promises, we're not supposed to rob or murder each other, but respect each other.

In that sense we're supposed to live with justice and equity. We're supposed to live by the Golden Rule. We're supposed to be generous with our possessions. There's, you know, several of these things every religion - everybody - understands that we should live that way.

There's universal consensus that we should live that way, and then of course on top of that we know that the main reason for all the misery in the world is because we don't live that way. The main reason for all the problems of our society is because people don't live that way. Now when everybody agrees what we should be doing what's right, there's no doubt and everybody agrees that the reason that we're miserable is because we're not doing it - the Bible's explanation is that human hearts are sinful but beyond that that we're **slaves to sin.**

We should love others, as we would want to be loved by others. God gives common grace to all people, even the evil. We should love in this way, as our Father in Heaven:

Matthew 5:45 - so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (ESV)

I do **not** think the Golden Rule is saying that "God is humanity." Neither do I think the Golden Rule is saying that God treats us precisely how we treat others.

I think the Golden Rule is really telling us to be loving, and love our enemies, as we would want to be loved by our enemies - love people the way Father God loves us:

Matthew 7:9-12 - Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father** who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So **whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them**, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

We should be imitators of God's love:

Psalms 103:8 - The LORD is **merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.** (ESV)

Ephesians 5:1-2 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (ESV)

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

Love your enemies as well as your friends. Be like Your Heavenly Father. Be perfect. Love (25. agapaó) your enemies means "treasuring your enemies" and looks like not repaying evil for evil. It sometimes looks like refusing to do evil and instead doing good to those who do you harm, taking the initiative in overcoming evil with good:

Matthew 5:43-48 - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Proverbs 25:21-22 - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. (ESV)

Also, as far as law-keeping goes, I believe Christians are not prohibited from following other parts of the Mosaic Law by faith.

Also, different to the Apostle Paul's conviction, I am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that there are things that I should commit to doing for Jesus to be faithful to Him.

Consider downloading N64 ROMS. I don't want to do it any longer. It feels wrong to me. Also, I consider AI fiction to be unclean, so I would avoid it.

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

Here are a few reasons why I don't like AI fiction.

Lies and deceit:

- Using AI fiction to write a cover letter for a job application
 - Resulting in increased difficulty in getting a job for refusing to write lies on a resume
- Using AI fiction to misrepresent yourself and lure girls over a dating platform
- Using AI fiction to impersonate or misrepresent people
 - youtube.com: THIS is why AI is so Dangerous!!! | John MacArthur, ChatGPT {@PreachingforGods-Glory}
 - youtube.com: How Satan is Using AI Videos to Trick MANY Christians.. Be Advised! {@aocnetwork}
 - youtube.com: Don't Be Fooled by AI-Generated Videos {@BishopBarron}
- **II Thessalonians 2:9-13** - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

Adultery:

- Fantasizing over AI fiction

The systems are mostly built/trained using theft:

- Stealing intellectual property (code, artwork, style etc.)
- https://suchir.net/fair_use.html
- ...

Like blood diamonds and laundered money, these LLMs are generally not clean from my perspective, and what they produce is not clean, and the way they're often used is not clean.

Jeremiah 17:11 - Like the partridge that gathers a brood that she did not hatch, so is he who gets riches but not by justice; in the midst of his days they will leave him, and at his end he will be a fool. (ESV)

Habakkuk 2:12-14 - Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (ESV)

So if I am experiencing persecution for refusing to use AI fiction to misrepresent myself to get ahead, then I am being persecuted for righteousness-sake and I have a lot of faith that God will honour that I want to obey Him and not sin, and I'm grieved by the use of AI to misrepresent and manipulate people.

Ezekiel 9:4 - And the LORD said to him, Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it. (ESV)

I think a lot of people are literally blinded from being able to see the truth of this:

II Corinthians 4:4 - In their case **the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers**, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (ESV)

I rebuke AI fiction in Jesus Christ's name and I choose to allow my mind to be conformed to the mind of Christ and I choose to listen to the voice of Christ and follow Christ. All of the generative AI stuff I consider to be unclean.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer "I do believe that the church is one of the foundations of our civilization. Without the church performing its sacramental and pastoral functions, the forces of barbarism would be given free sway. **The church cannot remain a positive force if it continues to remove itself from the stress and strain of contemporary events. The church has a prophetic role to play in the world, not just a pastoral role.** The true church and the world can that always be unfriendly terms. The sort of friendliness between church and society that we have cultivated in the past is actually the cause of the churches increasing irrelevance."

God I hate living in this world. It's a cesspool. I just feel as though it's on the abyss.

Lamentations 2:14 - Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading. (ESV)

Revelation of John 18:4 - Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; (ESV)

Everyone will give an account of themself to God:

Romans 14:12 - So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. (ESV)

Romans 14:14-15 - I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. (ESV)

Mark 7:18-19 - And he said to them, Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his **heart** but his stomach, and is expelled? (*Thus he declared all foods clean.*) (ESV)

In some cases, I might even admire those that go beyond what a law strictly requires, inclusive of what the law requires. If a person wanted to go beyond **Exodus 20:13** to avoid eating meat to spare the lives of animals and make themself accountable to God over that in the hope it pleases God then I admire that commitment actually, but I wouldn't let anyone pass judgement on me over eating meat myself:

Romans 14:16 - So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. (ESV)

I definitely think that "killing animals" for no good reason, say for sport, is not good.

Isaiah 11:6-9 - The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fatted calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. **They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.** (ESV)

Christians should **both** submit to the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, having the imputed righteousness of Christ that we believe we have as we are walking with Christ and Christians should practice righteousness too (as Jesus said, "go and sin no more"), and Christians should seek to keep accountability primarily to God in regards to the law because He sees everything, and **secondarily** have good conscience with men, to love as Jesus loved, and give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's - and God owns our hearts - and we should be prepared to die for Jesus, and remain faithful to Jesus:

Matthew 23:2-7 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. (ESV)

Having placed faith in Christ, been born-again, all things being made new, God making me new, having become a new person entirely, what about worldly debt which I had owed before I was born-again? What are my obligations with that? Could I for example, "only go to heaven if I payed back that debt?" As far as my ultimate standing with God goes, no, I don't think I **would** need to pay back all of that debt to go to heaven. But in order to be found blameless to the people I owe in the eyes of non-Christians in this world, then yes, I would. But my identity is in Christ and not in the world.

Colossians 2:13-14 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (ESV)

So yes, the righteous does give, and pay back what is borrowed, but as far as our legal standing with God goes, our debt was paid, God puts us into Christ and we are made new. He gives us a clean slate in Christ. I've been made new and clean and born-again. Therefore, I have a righteous standing with God. But the principle of the righteous paying back what they borrow and being generous and giving remains. So going forward, debt paid, we must still practice righteousness:

Psalms 37:21 - The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; (ESV)

Matthew 22:21 - They said, Caesar's. Then he said to them, Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. (ESV)

We love in the knowledge we have already **been** loved first when God sent Jesus Christ to pay for our sin with His blood. I was born-again of the Spirit and regenerated on 2 April 2022.

That's how we are found **in** God, by accepting that He loved us first through Jesus Christ, and God puts us into Him.

John 13:6-7 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. (ESV)

After being born-again of the spirit I don't say I'm completely sinless, or that I could not commit sin - that would be deceiving myself:

I John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

In fact, it's clear that we must continue on in Jesus Christ's teaching after having been forgiven, and that includes being merciful to other people, as we have received mercy.

Matthew 18:21-35 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, Pay what you owe. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you. He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, **You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.** (ESV)

Colossians 3:13 - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (ESV)

But what about me with my situation regarding court? I don't know everything. Can I confess what I don't know? Sometimes I think we just have to deny self. I don't have an issue with that. But I do have an issue with what feels like injury my soul, and relentless ongoing spiritual attack after having sought to try to remain faithful to and obey Jesus regarding the situation. But it doesn't feel like freedom has been given to me on the other side of that, that I might live to my conviction, my decision, without what seems like satanic oppression/harassment/torment:

James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (ESV)

But I continue walking in the light, in trusting obedience to Jesus, and Jesus' blood continues to cleanse me from all sin:

I John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 *homologeō*) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

It is clear that following Jesus helps us to not sin, which means that the destructiveness of sin for us is still a reality if we are not following Jesus. We get on top of it by following Jesus and walking by His Spirit:

Galatians 5:14-16 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 *logō*): You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

Someone who has just been "born of God" is an infant in Christ and is counted as a child of God, but an infant. I mention this because an infant grows into maturity, into living in the Spirit the way that God does, into thinking and behaving as a mature child of God:

I Corinthians 3:1 - But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. (ESV)

Romans 8:14 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (ESV)

We've got to continue in Jesus' teachings/commandments:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Those who find a place for God's word in their heart, those who are of the truth, who receive God's word, they listen to what Jesus has said. They are not repulsed by Jesus' words, nor are they repulsed by Jesus' commandments. They are not repulsed by who Jesus is, and they are not repulsed by what Jesus has done as recorded in Scripture:

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

John 8:37-47 - I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. **Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.** He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? **If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.** (ESV)

John 6:45 - It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. **Everyone** who has heard **and learned** from the Father comes to me— (ESV)

Jesus' commandments are rock-solid and they are eternal:

Matthew 7:24 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

We can trust Jesus' commandments as we trust Jesus Himself. If a person keeps them out of love for Jesus, with faith in Jesus, God can do some awesome stuff in and through that. Even the commandment to "give to the one who asks", for example, might be met with 'worldly' wisdom to deter someone from trusting God. Distrust for Jesus' commandments deters people from keeping them. But if we obey them out of faith and love for Jesus (and do so in a lawful way, not like a Robin-Hood way, for example), God absolutely sees our efforts in maintaining a good conscience keeping His commandments seeking to please God and not man. He can really use people who are keeping Jesus' commandments in faith:

Hebrews 6:10 - For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. (ESV)

Thinking with faith in Jesus, maintaining a good conscience with God, believing He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him, trusting in God for the outcome, God is not so unjust that He'd punish us for acting in faith. If God works all things for good for those who love Him, and the one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one that loves Him, and since suffering for righteousness-sake is a commendable thing in God's sight then we can trust God to use our obedient commandment-keeping (especially Jesus' commandments) towards our good or for the good of others.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)

One of Jesus' teachings we need to continue on in is to love those who hate us:
Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect - love also the ones who hate you:

Matthew 5:38-48 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, **Do not resist the one who is evil**. But if **anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also**. And if **anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well**. And if **anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles**. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate (3404. *miseó*, 3404 *miséō* – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Keep in mind that what Jesus means by "perfect" is possible, because Jesus said the following, and this is how:

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:11 - Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? (ESV)

In Christ, we must "be perfect" in the sense that Jesus means when He says "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." In Christ, we must not hate one another. In Christ, we **must** agape love one another:

Colossians 3:13-14 - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Another of Jesus' teachings we need to continue on is to forsake sin:

John 8:34-36 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

A person who is mature in Christ has faith in Christ, follows the teachings of Christ and the pattern of His life, and is spiritually minded, and thinks with Christ's wisdom, not worldly wisdom, and lives for the will of God:

Colossians 1:28 - Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (ESV)

We must live in the spirit the way God does, not for human passions, but for the will of God:

I Peter 4:1-6 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might **live in the spirit the way God does.** (ESV)

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

Living by the Golden Rule (or better, the Royal Law) still comes after having been forgiven by Jesus:

Matthew 7:12 - So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

I've heard it said Christians "do not need to follow the Golden Rule". But the Golden Rule is at the heart of Christ's law and even after being born-again and accepting forgiveness from God, we should walk in the light, following Christ's law.

Applying love to the Golden Rule, we have the second of the great commandments, the Royal Law, which is to: "Love your neighbour as yourself". It's actually very important.

We are supposed to fulfill the Royal Law, even after having received forgiveness:

James 2:1 - My brothers, show no partiality **as you hold the faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)

Committing sin can still happen after having been forgiven. Committing sin happens when we do not fulfill the Royal Law, or when we are showing unfair bias as we do it. Therefore being led by the Spirit of Jesus, we should be abiding by the Royal law, and to be deliberately breaking the Royal law, a person could no longer say they are being led by the Spirit of Jesus:

James 2:8-9 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (ESV)

But we must love like Christ loved us in the knowledge that He loved us first. We must forgive our family in Christ, as we have been forgiven:

Leviticus 19:18 - **You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD. (ESV)

Also, I believe that abiding by Christ's law and loving your neighbour as yourself **does not cancel out the rest of the law of God**, but that a person must be **actually following Christ by obeying Christ's commandments** in order to not be "under the law" and to be "not guilty".

Following Jesus starts with believing in Him and believing He is the Son of God, and Anointed one, the Messiah, and following Jesus continues in getting to know Him through obedience to Him:

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

So an important part of being led by the Spirit of Jesus and being not "under the law" is to continuing to forgive one another as we have been forgiven by Jesus, and walk in the light as He is in the light.

In Christ Jesus, as we are abiding in Jesus, getting to know Jesus through obedience to Him, getting to know Him in Spirit as we get really intimate with Jesus, walking as He walked, we have the peace of God:

Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Following Jesus includes your thought life:

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (ESV)

All people should seek to follow the Royal Law which is to love one's neighbour as themself, bearing their neighbours burdens and forgiving one another, but who has done that perfectly?

Quote by Tim Keller "I want you to meet the needs of other people with all of the strength, with all of the joy and all of the creativity and with all of the speed with which you meet your own needs. 12 hours, that's all - Golden Rule, just try it"

As Christians we were at one time disobedient, and were not able to do this perfectly, and we have been saved by Jesus, having been forgiven by Him, and after we are grafted into Christ, we now have His righteousness and Almighty God as our Father, and Jesus is our Master and we seek to please our Master, like the All Blacks try to please their coach, and we seek to follow the Royal Law, which is a part of being obedient to Jesus. We have His Spirit, and His Spirit helps us to do this.

Quote by Billy Graham And he fell down before them and says, "What must I do to be saved? And they gave him a very simple answer, not something complicated. Simple, so that nobody here can ever say that you did you couldn't do it. He said believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Believe, commit your life to Christ, and you shall be saved. It commits the believer wholeheartedly to one about whose person and work he has gained a clear-cut conviction.

Quote by Billy Graham And it's so simple that millions stumble over it.

People think it's so complicated to be a Christian, to be a true follower of Christ. No, it is not. You start out very simply.

That first step is to say, "Lord, I'm sorry for my sin. I turn from my sin. I receive Christ as my Lord and Savior."

Now two things are involved in believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. One is repentance. It means that you rethink. The word repentance means "change". I change my attitude. I change my way of living. But you cannot change by yourself. You need God to help you to change. So he sends the Holy Spirit to help you in the changing process.

And then, secondly, it means **trust**. Faith is described in the Bible as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith or belief is not faith without evidence, but commitment without reservation. It means that you hold nothing back. You totally commit this life, the future life, and everything you are or everything you hope to be to the person of Jesus Christ.

Titus 3:8-15 - The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that **those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works**. These things are excellent and profitable for people. But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. **Greet those who love us in the faith.** Grace be with you all. (ESV)

4.2.5 God's name must be hallowed. We should not take it in vain

Matthew 6:9 - Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (ESV)

- 1 Dear Heavenly Father,
- 2 hallowed be Your name.
- 3 Please forgive me, Father God, for using Your name where it ought not to be used,
- 4 and for any misrepresentation I have made.
- 5 In Jesus Christ's name I ask,
- 6 AMEN!!

For this reason, I think that Bible translations such as the ESV, correctly are reserved about printing the LORD's name inline throughout the whole Bible. The JW, as they consolidate their Bible translation (NWT) using the LORD's name, seems to me either like an effort to try to engineer God, or self-affirm their own understanding, which is self-exalting but may (especially by those in their congregation) be done in ignorance. I do not affirm the NWT translation, but I do affirm the doctrine of Sola Scriptura.

However, I also neither like the way in which the names of other so-called gods are used in other translations of Scriptures and I can understand the concern about that:

Exodus 23:13 - Pay attention to all that I have said to you, and make no mention of the names of other gods, nor let it be heard on your lips. (ESV)

Let's have reverence for Jehovah God and serve Him:

Malachi 3:15-18 - And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape. Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of **those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name**. They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts,

in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him. (ESV)

These Scriptures refers to Jesus' name:

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. (ESV)

Matthew 18:19-20 - Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. (ESV)

The JW are right to affirm that we must remember God's name. **Exodus 3:15** and **Malachi 3:16** refer to God's name, Yhvh, and Christians within the English speaking world generally affirm the name is spoken as Jehovah or Yahweh. It's right that we must affirm God's name and remember God's name:

Exodus 3:13-15 - Then Moses said to God, If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name? what shall I say to them? God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And he said, Say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel, The LORD (3068. Yhvh), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. **This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.** (ESV)

A translation which contains the Divine Name: <https://www.njvbible.com/>

Exodus 9:16 - But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. (ESV)

1 Yhvh: the proper name of the God of Israel

2 Original Word:

3 Part of Speech: Proper Name

4 Transliteration: Yhvh

5 Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')

6 Definition: the proper name of the God of Israel

Malachi 3:16 - Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. (ESV)

Father God has given Jesus Christ all authority in heaven and on earth. In other words, Jesus Christ is God, just as Jehovah is God and Holy Spirit is God:

Philippians 2:9-10 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (ESV)

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:6 - but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (ESV)

[youtube.com: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD {Lyrics} | New Wine {@officialnewwine}](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JESUS%20CHRIST%20IS%20LORD%20%7B%20Lyrics%20%7D%20%7C%20New%20Wine%20%7B%40officialnewwine%7D) You came as a man;

You put off your robe; And made Yourself nothing for me; Crowned as a king; Humble and meek; What kind of love is this? You laid down Your life for me

Jesus Christ is Lord, Yahweh; To Him be all the praise; Exalted high above all gods; The greatest of all names

You hold the keys; Of hell and the grave; Forever exalted high; Now I can boast in Christ alone; You are my victory; Christ, You're my victory

At the mention of Your name; Demons flee and chains will break; Hallelujah, Hallelujah; The Father's given us His Son; Through His blood He's made us one; Hallelujah, Hallelujah

4.2.6 Christ-like humility

Philippians 2:5-6 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (ESV)

Obedient to His Father's commandments for Him:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

We're also supposed to have this type of humility, which is obedient to God and supports others. (I think of serving others as "supporting" them because it shows that Jesus supports us to ourselves keep His commandments. We are supported to walk in the way God wants us to walk):

Philippians 2:5-7 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (ESV)

Romans 15:1-7 - We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me. For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (ESV)

And God in His mercy saves us and brings us to Himself through Jesus His Son:

Ephesians 2:1-5 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— (ESV)

As I was on my way driving to Elim church today, I was thinking "external holiness/cleanliness" is a good thing. Jesus told some hypocritical Pharisees who were teachers of the Law but unclean within that they were like _whitewashed tombs.

Matthew 23:26-28 - You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (ESV)

The Pharisees were focusing on external cleanliness but ignoring their own hearts.

When we think of sin, it involves being enslaved to the practice of it, and it also involves the heart's desire of it. Sinful thoughts should be quickly disposed of and not allowed to be sown in the heart.

If we focus on cleaning the heart through obedience to the Truth and the washing of the Word in our heart, then that's the most important thing. We can be justified by humbling ourselves before God.

Luke 18:11-14 - The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, **God, be merciful to me, a sinner!** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

But our external circumstances may be making it difficult to meet the external appearance of obedient faith, such as "being employed and working money" which is important as to bear one's own load by working is a commandment from the Apostle Paul, but having paid employment in this world to earn your keep is no sure indication of actual obedient faith in the heart of the person.

II Thessalonians 3:6-12 - Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. (ESV)

- The mark of the beast seems to be specifically about trading/doing business/buying and selling - as in this mark would be required to partake in this system.
- I think that's inclusive of "employment", since it's selling your own services.
- It doesn't make sense to say that someone is being disobedient to Jesus when they want to work but are being prevented from working, otherwise you'd be making "employment" into an idol.
- The commandment says "willing to work", not "work." Some people say, if anyone doesn't work they don't eat, but that would be like agreeing that people should take the mark of the beast. It would mean there would be no freedom, for example, to go on strike if the only paid employment was immoral.

Revelation of John 13:15-18 - And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666. (ESV)

I've been born-again, purchased by God, given a new heart and a new spirit, so that I can love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength and live. I've been bought so that I can practice righteousness. I can now speak about Jesus openly, though do not have monetary employment... I should not take a job where I'm prohibited from talking about Jesus. It would actually be wrong for me to allow myself to exchange this freedom that I have been given as a slave of righteousness (a slave of Christ) for money. And I don't want to suppress the truth by unrighteousness. I don't want the wrath of God!

I Peter 3:2 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:23 - You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. (ESV)

Romans 1:18 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:16 - that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. (ESV)

Matthew 26:15 - and said, What will you give me if I deliver him over to you? And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. (ESV)

If we focus on cleaning the heart through obedience to the Truth and the washing of the Word, then that's the priority over trying to maintain the external appearance of godliness. The devil can take your job, but should not be allowed to take your obedience and faith and love for the Lord Jesus. It's good and glorifies God to keep obeying Jesus' commandments to serve Him, serving others, even if the devil puts pressure on you to make you fear for your own self-preservation.

That doesn't mean we don't endeavour to meet the commandment of the Apostle Paul but we are baptised into Christ, not into Paul, and Christ is our Master, not Paul, nor the Law of Moses. We are enslaved to Christ who is our righteousness - we are enslaved to Righteousness, obeying Jesus. The requirement of the Law is really fulfilled in our hearts and then that should become apparent on our outside.

We are made clean on the inside of the Word which Jesus has spoken to us:

John 15:3 - Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:13 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (ESV)

Acts 10:43 - To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (ESV)

That Word should clean our souls as we believe/obey it. The gospel (that seed of Truth) then cleans our hearts as we believe/obey it. And then we live in good conscience with God (forgiven and repentant), holding to the Truth - all of what we have heard from Jesus including the teaching about godliness (righteous living in accord with the knowledge of God, in accord with repentance). Our exterior behaviour also is cleaned as our hearts and thoughts are cleansed. We must continue to believe and obey Jesus as we read/hear His words.

Matthew 17:5 - He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him. (ESV)

4.2.7 "Legalism"

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

Any issue belonging to 'legalism' is always about the appearance of obedience, rather than inward obedience and good conscience with God.

Here, Jesus seems to show that saving human life, and doing good is obedient to God's law but that there is an unlawful way to keep the law of God, and as an example, an unlawful way to "keep the Sabbath":

Matthew 12:12 - Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. (ESV)

Luke 6:9 - And Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? (ESV)

Legalism doesn't keep God's law lawfully.

Legalism would congratulate Robin Hood for giving to the poor because he always does it, though he stole from the metaphorical 'Caesar' in order to do so. Legalism would condemn the poor person who can't work but has been obedient gives what they can when someone asks, as in the commandment. Legalism would condemn the person who skipped going to church on Sunday in order to instead spend time showing love to someone who was thinking of killing themselves.

There is absolutely one place I can think of where it is necessary to be ultra-strict, and that is in the testing of spirits to see if they are from God. We are told to not trust a spirit which does not confess Jesus, and we are reassured that any spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come (from God, into the world) in the flesh is from God. I wouldn't trust a person who refuses to confess openly to me that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God who has come in the flesh into the world from God. It's important to be really strict with that.

I John 4:1-21 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: **every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God**, and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. **We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us.** By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, **let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, **not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.** So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. **We love because he first loved us.** If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

Matthew 10:32-38 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

Knowing God definitely involves not being violent, and it involves saving life.

Isaiah 11:6-9 - The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fatted calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. **They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.** (ESV)

4.2.8 Honesty in pleasing God with works

Doing so-called 'good works' to justify yourself while denying Christ's atoning work on the cross, is actually self-righteousness and is very displeasing to God.

When we talk about 'merit' or 'credit', we were enabled to even be able to have merit in suffering for righteousness sake because Jesus bore our sins on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 'Live to righteousness' means walking in the light, walking in love and truth, practicing works that please God, making spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 13:1-8 says that without love (love that rejoices with the truth) we gain nothing. God loved us first and has chosen us to be a holy people for His possession, and we can now make spiritual sacrifices which God finds acceptable through Jesus Christ our Lord who we are holding faith in and who has loved us first, laying down His life for us first:

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. **For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

4.2.9 Honesty in asking for help

I don't think it's right for a person (person A) to beg for help to help "them" if the intention is to pay off another's debt (person B), especially if person B is not, say a dependent, such as a spouse or a child, especially if the money was intended to be used to help person A, find employment.

It would be dishonest to be using the money differently while compromising on your 'obligations' to the person giving you money. For example, if I was begging on the street asking for someone to help '**me**', it would be dishonest if in reality I was not using this money for the purpose of what I had asked specifically for, i.e. get me on my feet, but instead simply forwarding it onto others to pay off other people's debt would be dishonest.

Just as an aside, for some issues such as having a criminal conviction, or having no reference, I don't think it's always possible to spend money to solve the problem. How do I spend money to get past a criminal conviction or to get references? I can't think of any obvious legitimate way to go about doing that. So what would I do with excess funds but use to help other people get out of their problem?

If you say, please give me money so I can buy food, then the money should be for food. If you say, please give me money because I need money to help me to find work, then the money should be to find work. If you say, I need help and they ask, "What for?" and you say, "For food" and instead of spending on food you are paying off someone else's debt, then that is dishonesty.

OK, so what if you have a big debt yourself, like a student loan, and because of that you feel like you have to become debt free before "giving to the one that asks" and you have to walk past all the beggars, and you are forced to find employment to pay back that loan before you can help other people?

That's the dilemma I've found myself in.

Within the freedom of whatever the money loaning debt system has, I'm thinking of the welfare system, I definitely believe there is flexibility in "receiving about the same amount as everyone else" but living cheaply and donating excess to those in need.

youtube.com: Bishop Barron @time: 1 hrs 33 min 49 sec Since the whole world belongs to God, ultimately, right? God makes the whole world from nothing, (it belongs to God; it doesn't belong to us) we are *stewards* of it. So Leo said, "Everyone has a right to private ownership..." (i.e. private property, such as a house), but when it comes to the use of what we own, he said, "Once the requirements of necessity and propriety have been met in your own life, everything else you own belongs to the poor." That's Leo XIII.

But there are obligations that we are supposed to meet while on welfare that is given for a specific purpose.

Inward obedience to Christ comes first, of course, and we're individually keeping a good conscience with God over that and personally accountable to God over that. I wouldn't want blood on my hands, for example, knowing I refused to feed or house someone and then found out they died overnight because they didn't get what they needed because I was being overly "legalistic".

It's starting to feel like witchcraft when you're being controlled by debt.

The reality is though, I think, that when God makes a person a new creation, their sin debt to God is cancelled. Now people might start asking them to "cough up" on material debt all of a sudden.

So what's the next move? I think it's right to find employment to pay back Caesar, to pay my monetary debts. Now if someone prevents me from finding employment, say with a criminal conviction, then that is very much like witchcraft, trying to keep me under a satanic stranglehold. In this world, everything seems to try to prevent me from following Jesus.

I think it's very true that in trying to resist sin, and maintain obedience to Christ's commandments, it would naturally lead a person to rousing demons and to persecution so intense in the likeness of having your blood shed.

Hebrews 12:4-8 - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (ESV)

Anyway, on that note, I think I will endeavour to make a job application today.

4.2.10 Anti-christ-like behaviour

Pride and insubordination against God is antichrist-like behaviour:

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 - Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (ESV)

Now with regards to the way people should (or shouldn't) act:

Quote by Tim Keller Know what the Bible says: Sin is craving something more than God. Sin is making something more important than God. Sin is living for something more than God. If God is at the periphery of your life, if you're just religious occasionally, if God [is] sort of on the outskirts of your life, that is sin. That's the essence of sin.

It's really important to respect the testimony of the Cross:

Polycarp 6:3 For every one who shall not confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is antichrist: and whosoever shall not confess (G3670 homologeó) the testimony of the Cross, is of the devil; and whosoever shall pervert the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts and say that there is neither resurrection nor judgment, that man is the firstborn of Satan.

Read Polycarp to the Philippians, Chapter 7

Polycarp 7:1 (Greek) ΙΙ (G3670 homologeó, confess) (Jesus) X (Christ), , , ,

Polycarp 7:1 (English) ¹ “For whoever does not confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, is antichrist;” and whoever does not confess the testimony of the cross, is of the devil; and whoever perverts the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts, and says that there is neither a resurrection nor a judgment, he is the first-born of Satan.

Bad or unchrist-like behaviour might be making money or some other thing more important than God to “get ahead” materially, placing burdens on others to fulfill the same materialistic/worldly standard, especially on those who have their priorities already in the correct order (they are obeying God, and are keeping their heart clean) and not lifting a finger to help them but actually make things more difficult. What I really mean is, it is the opposite of teaching Christlikeness to force someone to clean up their outward appearance or to meet certain worldly standards when they are in relationship Jesus, spending their time trying to help other people, and the bad outward appearance is a result of sacrificing for others following Jesus - I mean it is anti-christ-like behaviour to try to stop people from following Jesus or punish people for following Jesus.

Psalms 37:14-17 - The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous. (ESV)

John 19:28 - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), I thirst. (ESV)

Matthew 23:26 - You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. (ESV)

Jesus came to help us, shed His blood for us as atonement to ransom us from our sin, so that we can be set free from it and put a stop to it, and to bring us to God. Jesus certainly has made it easier for us to obey God, and we can be sanctified by His blood:

Luke 23:36-37 - The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself! (ESV)

Psalms 69:21 - They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. (ESV)

I still consider that what matters is obedience to God from the heart.

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV)

Matthew 23:27-28 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (ESV)

We are also supposed to speak up for the God's Truth. We should affirm sound Christian teaching when it comes to what is sinful. Just because we may not judge others when it comes to something sinful, that doesn't mean that God won't judge us for practicing and affirming something sinful.

It's not loving to make life harder on people by placing higher standards of exterior 'cleanliness' without helping them to achieve it, when in reality the way to achieve it is to clean the inside first:

Matthew 23:4 - They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. (ESV)

Matthew 23:25-29 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, (ESV)

Luke 11:39 - And the Lord said to him, Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. (ESV)

[youtube.com: Living For The Lord Jesus - A Fulfilled Life - Mar Mari Emmanuel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfjwvXzgkA)
Specific example:

Let's say there is a poor by appearances (but rich in God) person on the street who loves God with all their heart but has a rough outward appearance and the reason they have a rough outwards appearance is because the world hates them as a result of their faith in Jesus, being obedient to Jesus. Now along comes a worldly person who loves money, the pride of life and the pride of their possessions, and they love and desire money more than they love God (this is one reason why I don't like the prosperity gospel). This worldly person goes up to the poor person on the street and says they must be burdened with sin because of their outward appearance, that they are poor because of sin, rather than because of obedience, that must should their eyes away from following God and focus on worldly things, that they have demons and need to clean up their appearance to be a real Christian, **and they don't lift a finger to help the poor person meet their standard of exterior wellbeing**. The worldly ignorant person has just acted like the blind Pharisees, and not like the good Samaritan. The materially poor person may be in that situation because they were the good Samaritan to someone and saved someone's life.

John 15:18-20 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

The one worrying about the material things isn't in doing so exhibiting the love of the Father in them but the poor person who loves God does - the materially poor but rich in faith person has their priorities in order and doesn't need correction from the natural, worldly person, but rather needs mercy from the materialistic worldly person.

Revelation of John 2:9 - I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. (ESV)

And the materialistic, worldly person needs to learn from the poor person so they can put God first:

Revelation of John 3:17 - For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. (ESV)

This is not glorifying poverty, but rather is about the truth of the matter that we must have God as our top love in our heart:

I John 2:15 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (ESV)

Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

James 2:5-8 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. (ESV)

It's the ones who serve Jesus who God delights in their prosperity:

Psalms 35:27 - Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant! (ESV)

Servants serve:

Mark 10:43-45 - But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Matthew 6:25-34 - Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

4.2.11 Islam

[opc.org qa.html](http://opc.org/qa.html): Question & Answer: The Orthodox Presbyterian Church Question:

Are the Muslim nations descendants of Esau? If not, who?

Answer:

Historical data, as well as the locations of the original sons of Esau, suggest that at least some of the descendants of Esau are in fact part of the Islamic world. But to understand the situation properly we may need to go back further, to Ishmael, one of Abraham's sons, to find that he became a mighty nation as well. Islam in fact does look to Ishmael as one of their fathers.

The existence of both Esau and Ishmael and their descendants must also be traced back to Genesis 3:15 and the conflict that exists between the seed of the Serpent and the Seed of the Woman, who is Christ. Our attention as believers must be upon Christ. All who oppose him, regardless of religious profession, are of their father the devil (see John 8:44). It is only by faith in God's covenant promise of salvation through Christ that salvation may be attained. The real Islamic problem is not their militancy but the fact that they, like all who do not love the Lord Jesus, are destined for God's condemnation.

Hope this helps.

4.2.12 The spirit of antichrist behind Islam

I'm convinced that Jesus Christ is the Only-begotten Son of God and that He is God's Word and God's Word is Jehovah, as the Father is also Jehovah and Holy Spirit is Jehovah.

John 1:1-14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

From what I've seen in the Quran in chapter 19 without quoting from it, because I don't want to pollute my document, it really 'seems' to attempt to scare people away from confessing that Jesus Christ of Nazareth, son of Mary, is also the Son of God.

youtube.com: Distinctive Marks Of The Spirit Of The Antichrist {@DerekPrinceMinistries} @time: 1 m

You have to distinguish between two completely different things. Paganism which is the worship of false gods and idols but is not a denial that Jesus is the Messiah. In fact, in most parts of the pagan world they still haven't heard that Jesus ever came. You cannot be antichrist if you've never even heard of Christ, you see? So, that's paganism. It's satanic, but it's not the spirit of antichrist. The spirit of antichrist can only operate where Christ has first been proclaimed.

...

So, the second mark of the spirit of antichrist is it's aware of the coming of Jesus, denies His claim to be Messiah. That's not altogether true of Islam. They wouldn't contest that but they have so watered down the concept of Messiah that in actual fact it's meaningless.

...

So, the antichrist does not accept the Biblical revelation of the persons of the Godhead, the Father and the Son. And here Islam is an outstanding example because Moslems are fanatically opposed to the claim that Jesus is the Son of God.

I John 2:22-23 - Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (ESV)

I know that Jesus is a fair judge.

Mark 4:24 - And he said to them, Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. (ESV)

youtube.com: "What About People Who NEVER Heard About Jesus?" {Tough Question Answered!} {

God judges people on the basis of evidence they've had, not on evidence they haven't had. You see that all through the Bible.

John 15:22-24 - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but **now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also.** If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but **now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.** (ESV)

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

Islam denies that Jesus is the Son of God, and denies various other important facts about Jesus:

I John 2:23-29 - **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. (ESV)

I John 2:23 - **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (ESV)

I John 5:12 - Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (ESV)

Islam is an antichrist religion which denies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and tries to scare people away from believing He's the Son of God. It's incompatible with Christianity. We've got to fight against the darkness with the word of God.

We have to fight against the darkness with the Word of God:

Zechariah 4:6 - Then he said to me, This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:4-6 - For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. God speaks through His Apostles and prophets so I do think that in a real sense that this is God saying that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And since Jesus is the Word of God, this is also, in a sense Jesus claiming to be the Son of God.

Mark 1:1 - The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (ESV)

And Jesus clearly does claim to have God as His Father:

John 8:54 - Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God. (ESV)

John 10:35-37 - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; (ESV)

I think it's correct to say that "in Christ Jesus", people have a spiritual identity as a son of God. I know almost nothing about Islam, but just doing a quick search online now, apparently it says something like, "How could He have children when He has no mate?" in An'am 6:101. But I think it probably misunderstands what it means to be a 'son of God'. Jesus appears to suggest that even women (because Jesus mentions "neither marry nor are given in marriage") if they are sons of the resurrection are sons of God.

Luke 20:35-36 - but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (ESV)

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

I defer to Sam Shamoun who is a Christian who knows more on the subject of Islam: answering-islam.org: Answering Islam, A Christian-Muslim Dialog and Apologetic

4.2.13 We should welcome people who hear Jesus' words and want to learn how to follow Jesus, and we should give them Jesus' words

If anyone claims to be a believer but does not abide in the teaching of Christ, they do not have God, and we should not associate with them.

Psalms 26:5 - I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked. (ESV)

We need to cling to Christ's words and teachings and use them to correct our brothers in Christ. If there is resistance to Christ's teachings within the church, then that is not good.

We should let people in who want to follow Jesus. We should give the cold shoulder to people who do not want to follow Jesus.

If anyone claims to be a believer but doesn't abide in Christ's teachings then don't welcome that person in.

It's really important that we **continue in the teaching of Christ and about Christ** and allow ourselves to come into agreement with the **teaching of Christ and about Christ**.

We should separate ourselves from people who do not stay/remain/abide in the teaching of Christ (including about service and godliness) and about Christ (doctrine, even from the gospel accounts, eyewitnesses, etc.). If people do not want to continue in the teaching of Christ and about Christ, and they do not abide in it, and do not want to be corrected by the Word of God, then we should separate ourselves from them:

II John 1:7-11 - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 *homologeō*) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. **Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching (1322. *didaché*) of Christ, does not have God.** Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. **If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.** (ESV)

We must also withdraw ourselves from false teachers who bring in destructive heresies, particularly those teaching us we don't need to serve/obey the Master who bought us:

II Peter 2:1 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (ESV)

II Cor 11:6-15 is saying he was really practicing what he was preaching, authentically and loving his brethren sincerely to serve them whilst preaching and in continuing to do so he hoped that his continued practicing of the truth without hypocrisy would undermine the claims of the false apostles who don't work on the same **terms**, and I believe those terms are in part the commitment to practice the truth, to practice righteousness, to righteously serve their brethren, by preaching the gospel and practicing selfless serving love without hypocrisy. The works of the false apostles Paul talks about (which include 'preaching') have been done on different terms to the works which Paul and the other true Apostles were working to. For example these false apostles would not have been practicing Jesus Christ's selfless, serving love as they preached, or exercising the same type of selfless love which Jesus commanded us to exercise for one another. Similar to preaching out of envy and rivalry, the false apostles Paul talks of would have also been preaching in some dishonest way.

Philippians 1:15-17 - Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:5 - An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

The works of the false apostles are not genuinely serving righteousness. The end of these people will correspond to their deeds done in unrighteousness.

II Corinthians 11:6-15 - Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! And what I do I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. (ESV)

Anyone who is practicing actual righteousness, if they abide in the truth, has been born of God:

I John 2:29 - If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

Read bibleoutlines.com: Bible Outlines - Jude 1-4 - Doctrine Worth Fighting For - Combating False Teachers

Jude 1:4 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jude 1:4 - For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

We shouldn't exclude those who are following Jesus and being taught by Jesus, and producing the right fruits. The ones who serve Jesus are obedient to Him:

Romans 16:17-19 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who **cause divisions** and **create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught**; avoid them. For such persons **do not serve our Lord Christ**, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your **obedience** is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. (ESV)

Luke 6:22-23 - Blessed are you when people hate you and when they **exclude** you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. (ESV)

We must produce the right fruits:

Matthew 21:43 - Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5-7 - The **aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.** Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. (ESV)

We must produce the right fruits, not the wrong fruits. And we certainly shouldn't shut out people who are producing the right fruits:

Matthew 23:13 - But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. (ESV)

Matthew 19:14 - but Jesus said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

I Timothy 6:1-5 - Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. **If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.** He has *an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.* (ESV)

If anyone claims to be a believer but is an unrepentant sinner then don't allow that person in:

I Corinthians 5:11-13 - But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler — not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?** God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

Read <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/avoid-the-unrepentant-but-what-if-theyre-family>

If anyone claims to be a believer but does not agape (treasure) his brother, they are still in darkness:

I John 2:9 - Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. (ESV)

We are all **stewards** of God's varied grace so there is obligation to serve one another:

I Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good **stewards** of God's varied grace: (ESV)

Churches should be teaching Jesus' teachings, and we should be teaching each other to abide in Christ's teachings without hypocrisy (i.e. whilst abiding ourselves in Christ's teachings):

Luke 12:42-49 - And the Lord said, Who then is the **faithful and wise manager**, whom his master will set over his household, **to give them their portion of food at the proper time?** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, My master is delayed in coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:11 - Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. (ESV)

I Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (ESV)

4.2.14 God definitely disciplines us even if we love Jesus - *every son he receives*

The ones who love Jesus, keep His teachings:

John 14:23-24 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. (ESV)

God *definitely* disciplines us, even if we love Jesus and keep Jesus' commandments:

Hebrews 12:6-8 - For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises **every son whom he receives**. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which **all have participated**, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Those who love God - those who believe and obey Him - those who trust Him - will experience trial:

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (ESV)

I believe strongly that I am **currently** going through this and I have been going through this discipline/testing/repentance others stuff for a year or longer now:

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

We have to believe and obey the Truth. We have to agree with the word of God, and allow God to correct our beliefs and behaviour:

John 17:17-19 - **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)

I think we can expect God will discipline us to help us to keep the Royal Law.

Whoever loves with Christ's love knows Father God:

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

4.2.15 Christians should live fulfilling the Royal Law

Those walking (living) according to Jesus' Spirit should be able to do this:

Romans 8:4 - in order that the righteous requirement of the law **might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

James 2:8 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

Whoever loves with Christ's love knows Father God:

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

4.2.16 Fulfilling Christ's law is the least we can endeavour to do as an appropriate response of love for Jesus, Jesus having fulfilled the entire law and prophets

John 15:25 - But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: They hated me without a cause. (ESV)

John 18:9 - This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one. (ESV)

Matthew 26:56 - But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples left him and fled. (ESV)

Matthew 5:17 - Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (ESV)

To love your neighbour as yourself means forgiving them too, and remember that Jesus forgave us. It also means to not take vengeance (Christ's law includes not rendering evil for evil):

Leviticus 19:18 - **You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD. (ESV)

4.3 Following Jesus is the way of righteousness

By faith, we continue to abide in Jesus, believing Him and following Him in obedience. We do not simply commend ourselves for one act of belief, and then abandon the way:

Galatians 5:5 - For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly **wait for the hope of righteousness.** (ESV)

We do receive commendation by faith but God is the one who commends, and He judges our hearts. I believe that justification works like this:

Hebrews 11:1-2 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. (ESV)

I Corinthians 4:5 - Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. (ESV)

I believe this man here probably received justification in this commendation from Jesus Christ for the righteousness of faith in God:

Luke 19:1-10 - He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today. So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (ESV)

We have peace with God and are justified by faith when we are following Jesus Christ who is our Lord. Yes, we have peace because we are following Jesus::

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through **our Lord Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

"Jesus our Lord" means we are following Jesus. Those who trust in God who raised Jesus from the dead and follow Jesus will be justified:

Romans 4:23-25 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not **do what I tell you?** Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and **does them**, I will show you **what he is like:** he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

OBEDIENCE!

youtube.com: How Faith Obeys Noah trusts God and builds an ark. **Abraham trusts God** and leaves his homeland. **Abraham trusts God again** and lives in tents instead of building (a city) city, and **Sarah trusts God** and conceives when she's old.

The first thing is God; God exists and God speaks. And when He speaks He's reliable, and we now have something to take hold of in life. If there were no God, if there were no speaking, there'd be no faith in God, and there'd be no future for us.

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

A few weeks ago on a <2025-01-13 Mon> Monday, I woke up to a voice which said, "What is your faith in?"

I responded like this, "My faith is in the Word of God. Jesus Christ and His finished works is the cornerstone of my faith, and keeping and doing his commandments is the foundation of my faith. I obey Righteousness because I obey Jesus. I believe in the Truth because I believe in Jesus."

I didn't know but it turned out to be the last day of my sentence.

4.3.1 Separate yourself from unrepentant sinners

I Corinthians 5:11-13 - But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler — not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

Separate from the lawless (those who reject Christ's commandments), from the unbelievers (those who reject the gospel), and idolators (from those who unrepentantly treasure/value anything or anyone more than God):

II Corinthians 6:14-18 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has **righteousness** with **lawlessness**? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a **believer** share with an **unbeliever**? What agreement has the **temple of God** with **idols**? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

After being born-again on the 2 April 2022 (which I consider to be spiritual regeneration and receiving a lot of grace from God), it's become even more apparent to me that there is a fight for sanctification involving choosing Jesus over sin. The fight for sanctification involves trusting, believing and obeying Jesus Christ and overcoming resistance, even from people all around me.

That makes sense because if Jesus grants grace to someone then they're expected to use it to be transformed into Christ's image, not to double-down on sin. Just because the fight of faith is challenging and just because we get resistance as we reject darkness and come into agreement with God's word, doesn't mean we should easily give in to the resistance or compromise with darkness. We have to obey the truth from the Word, and love the light. I have noticed that it seems as though if you give the devil an inch, he will take a mile. We have to be strong with speaking and affirming, and walking in the Truth, when confronting situations arise.

We have to abide in the teaching of Christ - it's a war:

I John 1:6 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:11 - Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. (ESV)

We must expose the darkness and repent from sin and carry out deeds of light done in God - God working in us as we hold faith in and obey the true Jesus Christ:

John 3:18-21 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been **carried out in God.** (ESV)

Justified by works = justified by obedient faith (obedience). Commended by God by being obedient to God, including having faith in God. I have explained my view on justification by obedient faith elsewhere in this document:

1 Clem 30:1-3 Seeing then that we are the special portion of a Holy God, let us do all things that pertain unto holiness, forsaking evil speakings, abominable and impure embraces, drunkenesses and tumults and hateful lusts, abominable adultery, hateful pride. For God, He saith, resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the lowly. Let us therefore **cleave unto those to whom grace is given from God.** Let us clothe ourselves in concord, being lowlyminded and temperate, holding ourselves aloof from all back biting and evil speaking, *being justified by works and not by words.*

concord agreement or harmony between people or groups. "a pact of peace and concord"

It's not impossible to be justified by works as Abraham was justified by works after he was justified by trusting, obedient faith alone.

James 2:21 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? (ESV)

Galatians 3:5-7 - Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— just as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. (ESV)

James 2:25 - And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (ESV)

Hebrews 11:31 - By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (ESV)

Walking in God's will, doing works that are not merely our 'own' works, and we come into that when we trust and believe His word:

1Clem 32:3 They all therefore were glorified and magnified, not through themselves or their own works or the righteous doing which they wrought, but through His will.

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

By a sovereign act of God in giving us His Word we are born-again of His will - through faith in His Word:

James 1:16-18 - Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. **Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (KJV)

Practicing righteousness is done while in a relationship with Jesus - we do good works by Jesus working in us as we are holding fast to the gospel.

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Philippians 2:12-16 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

And also, sin is a very big deal now, and conforming to the image of Christ is how I want to be receiving / have received the grace of God, and I don't want to exchange the grace of God for licentiousness.

Jude 1:4 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (ESV)

I have also learned a scary lesson in personal experience after being born again of the Spirit - being made alive / spiritually regenerated. While there are many positive things that come with being born of the Spirit, such as the relationship with God feeling incredibly real, and days jam-packed with things that it seems God set up (lined up) for me, there's been an incredible amount of spiritual warfare going on.

To engage in uncleanness, sinning or things of darkness has profound impact not just on me but on those around me. It feels as though is a powerful enemy that if I were to allow it to reign in my body, it would become something that I cannot choose not to do anymore. What I don't want to do is consolidate darkness - I don't want to 'make the sin alive / regenerate the sin', as I've been given spiritual regeneration to be conformed to holiness. I don't want to exchange the grace of God for licentiousness.

Matthew 6:23 - but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. **If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!** (ESV)

Romans 6:12-13 - Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you **obey** its lusts, and **do not go on** presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but *present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.* (NASB)

It's very important, for example, to confess (G3670 homologeó) sin as sin and turn our backs on it, if we don't want to receive the grace of God in vain:

I John 1:7-10 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

I don't like the idea of an invulnerable worm moving through my soul for all eternity if that is what this is:

Mark 9:47-50 - And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. (ESV)

Paul also talks about how sin affects others spiritually. It's serious business to be fighting sin:

I Corinthians 5:1-6 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? **Let him who has done this be removed from among you.** For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. **Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** (ESV)

Distance yourself from people who claim to be believers in Jesus but are unrepentant.

For example:

- From those who go after false gods whilst also claiming to believe in Jesus.
- From those who defend sin such as sexual immorality, idolatry and abortion, or defend violence.

Expose the unfruitful works of darkness:

- Then warn them they could be denying Jesus with their works, and that God's wrath falls on the unrepentant, the disobedient.
- Don't associate with them if they continue it

Ephesians 5:1-11 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;** for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. (ESV)

4.4 God endured the cross that we can carry our crosses without getting weary or faint-hearted

Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus told his disciples, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:2-5 - looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. (ESV)

4.4.1 Carrying our cross is remaining faithful to Jesus

Any suffering we may receive for the sake of remaining faithful to Jesus and His gospel, that is our cross:

Luke 21:19 - By your endurance you will gain your lives (G5590 psychas: souls). (ESV)

Matthew 16:26 - For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life (G5590 psychēs: souls)? (ESV)

Luke 9:23-27 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God. (ESV)

4.5 Like a soldier under authority, waiting for God to act is not passive

We should just focus on what we are called to do. As we trust in Jesus (maybe to do a miracle for us), we should ourselves do our duty.

Psalms 37:4-7 - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. **Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.** He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 12:13 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)

Micah 6:8 - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (ESV)

Matthew 8:8-10 - But the centurion replied, Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, Go, and he goes, and to another, Come, and he comes, and to my servant, Do this, and he does it. When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. (ESV)

4.6 Obey the Truth, obey Jesus. Serve one another through love

Even Paul shows that in obeying Jesus, we walk by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:13-17 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 logō): You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (ESV)

Walking by the Spirit is being **led** by the Spirit is being obedient to Jesus.

The word "telē" in I Cor 10:11 is the plural of "telos" which is used in Romans 10:4. It doesn't mean "abolishment". It's more like "culmination", "goal, or "full maturity", or the "final stage", or the "ultimate purpose" and that if a person has arrived at faith in Jesus then they have arrived at the destination where the Mosaic Law was a "schoolmaster" to get us to. Now even if the coming faith was not yet "revealed", if someone were to have pursued the Mosaic Law by genuine fear of God, love of God, trust of God, hope in God, faith in the heart (rather than the exterior works) then that would still be commendable. But if a person rejects Jesus (say if they reject Him as King, or as Christ, if they don't submit to God's righteousness) then it simply shows that they do not have true faith in God, that they do not do what Abraham did, they do not have the love of God, the love of the Truth in them:

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end (G5056 telos) of the law (G3551 nomos) for righteousness (G1343 dikaiosune) to everyone who believes (G4100 pisteuo, trusts). (ESV)

Galatians 3:22-27 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (ESV)

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain

in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

The faith we must have is still law, but it's not a law of works:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the **law of faith**. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith**. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ. Perhaps to distinguish this verse from Romans 6:14-15, it could be written "law-abiding" to Christ's law, rather than "under":

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

We're not anti-law (G459 anomos). We're not without law. We're not lawless. Rather, we're pro-Christ's law and we're law-abiding (G1772 ennomos) to Christ's law.

anomos vs ennomos https://www.wenstrom.org/downloads/written/word_studies/greek/nomos.pdf

But notice how the phrase "under law" is written differently for Romans 6:14-15 and means something a little bit different. The english translations should probably rather use a different word in I Corinthians 9:21 to help distinguish one from the other:

Romans 6:14-15 - For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law (G5259 hypo) (G3551 nomon) but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! (ESV)

G5259. hypo by, under, beneath, through

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1 3756 1510      5259  3551
2 ouk esmen      hypo nomon
3
4 not we are     under law
5 Adv V-PIA-1P Prep N-AMS
6
7 235 5259 5485
8 alla hypo charin
9      ?
10 but under grace
11 Conj Prep N-AFS

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And we're not under law because Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. But rather, we are under grace (Jesus is helping us but we are abiding in Jesus' commandments).

Abiding by Christ's law (Christ's commandments), which is a law of faith (we're not under the curse of the law of Moses) and is not a law of works (**Romans 3:21-31**), is not being under a curse, but, rather is being under grace:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

When contrasting being "under law" to being "under grace", Paul is talking about people who "rely" on the "works" (the exterior stuff) of the law, the Mosaic Law (which came in after Abraham), who are under law. But the law of Christ which we are 'under' (abide in) is a different type of law, and the kind of law that it is is a law of faith. It's about the heart. And like Abraham, we should believe in, trust in, trust, agape love and obey Jesus. And just like Abraham's faith, our faith may be tested and a person may be justified by works, like Abraham's faith and that wasn't "works of the law of Moses" which came in later (to increase the trespass). But we don't "rely" on the justification by works of faith in Jesus, though that type of thing may happen.

Paul in **Galatians 3:10-13** is talking about people who "rely" on the "works" of the law:

Galatians 3:10-13 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them shall live by them. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree— (ESV)

Paul here saying that no-one is justified by the works of the law, that is true, but we are justified by the law of Christ, Christ's law being a law of faith.

Romans 3:27-31 - Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

Those who would pursue the Mosaic law that would lead to righteousness must pursue it by faith, not by works:

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

I actually want to critique John Piper's except now. I believe that it's Christ's law that we must keep, and that it is a law of faith rather than works, and that we must be doers of Christ's law. The obedience is not the works, so it's not a law of works. I don't think at all that saying "law-keeping" intrinsically comes with pride or a desire to show oneself better than another person. Rather, being a "doer of the law of faith that is Christ's law" a person would by necessity be having faith working through Christ's love and I don't see how Christ's love is prideful:

youtube.com: If We Have the Spirit, Why Commands? Galatians 5:22-26, Part 3 @time: 14 min 38 sec

Don't be conceited. Don't provoke one another. Don't envy, but rather keep in step with the Spirit and the Spirit will incline you to Christ and who and enable you to remember that you are justified by faith and not by law-keeping ~~by which you can show yourself better than somebody~~. Faith is a great leveler; It's so humble and dependent and it enables you to see that this kind of life here is self-exalting which is exactly the opposite of what walking according to the spirit does because walking according to the Holy Spirit is walking in love and love humbles itself to serve others, not exalt ourselves above them.

But the rest of this except I agree with.

4.6.1 Jesus Christ is Jehovah, the Son of God

Mark 10:18 - And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. (ESV)

Mark 1:11 - And a voice came from heaven, You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (ESV)

Mark 1:24 - What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God. (ESV)

Mark 2:5 - And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, My son, your sins are forgiven. (ESV)

Jesus is going to save many lives:

Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Jesus asked to give up everything and follow Him. Jesus does things only God can do:

Mark 10:21-27 - And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, Then who can be saved? Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God. (ESV)

If a person gives up everything for Jesus' and the gospel' then they **will** receive eternal life:

Mark 10:28-30 - Peter began to say to him, See, we have left everything and followed you. Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (ESV)

God can give eternal life. Jesus can give eternal life. Jesus is God, the Son of God:

Mark 10:17 - And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? (ESV)

Only God is good and only God can forgive sins. Jesus also knows in His spirit what they are questioning in their hearts:

Mark 2:5-11 - And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, My son, your sins are forgiven. Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone? And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Rise, take up your bed and walk? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—he said to the paralytic—I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home. (ESV)

God tests and knows the secrets of people's hearts. Jesus is God, God the Son.

Jesus:

- forgives sins
- heals diseases
- sees what people sees in their hearts

I Kings 8:39 - then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind), (ESV)

Psalms 44:21 - would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart. (ESV)

Jesus forgives sins and heals diseases:

Psalms 103:1-5 - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (ESV)

Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Yeah, so everything that we're supposed to praise Jehovah for, Jesus does. We praise Jehovah for forgiving our sins. We praise Jehovah for healing our diseases and redeeming our life for the pit. Jehovah is the only person who knows what people are thinking in their hearts and Jesus knew it immediately.

4.6.2 You cannot serve God, and also be yoked to money

Priorities:

- 1. Jesus
- 2-∞. Everything else

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

Job 22:24-26 - if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. (ESV)

God wants us to love Him, treasure Him (25. agapaó), value Him with all our heart, and love and value
youtube.com: What Is It Like to Enjoy God? @time: 35 min 16 sec

We should be able to live while having confidence that Jesus is all we need. The fear of not having enough money should not be stopping us from obeying God and treasuring God above all things and loving one another as God has instructed.

Hebrews 13:5-6 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we can confidently say, The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me? (ESV)

You cannot make money master over you:

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

We must accept Jesus as Master over us:

Romans 14:4 - Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (ESV)

But not only that; We also have to want God, treasure God and love God. And that means loving Him, treasure Him (25. agapaó), love Him in trust and in belief and obedience. In order to follow Jesus, sometimes you will **have to** sacrifice financial security because there are many people you around you who need you to lighten their burdens because we value/treasure (25. agapaó) people more than material/worldly things. Also God may even test you to see if you love your money more than Him:

I Peter 4:12 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (ESV)

We should be willing to have our pockets completely emptied as we give mercy to others and get to the point where we're relying on God alone. We should be able to do that if it were required of us. We have to root the love of money out of our own hearts and love God with our whole heart, and trust God who is our life!

Luke 12:23 - For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. (ESV)

Job 22:24-26 - if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. (ESV)

[youtube.com: JESUS | Full Album | Jesus Image](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JESUS) @time: 21 min 58 sec God You're still good and I thank You for what we do have. We may not have all that we've been asking for but we thank You that we have everything that we need because we have You, Jesus!

AMEN!!

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the **LORD** your **God** will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the **LORD** your **God** with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (ESV)

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

John 14:15-21 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

Sermon Seven Reasons We Must Pursue Supreme Satisfaction in God - YouTube

We must get on the path of having faith in Jesus, believe in the name (**onoma**) of Jesus, God's Son, and obey God to have confidence:

Proverbs 10:17 - Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray. (ESV)

I John 3:21-22 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because **we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.** (ESV)

I believe this is really talking about the commandments of Jesus and even of Father God. I personally believe this includes the 10 Commandments which I believe are still important for Christians to follow by faith:

I John 3:21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:20 - For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:8-10 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of **eternal salvation to all who obey him**, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

We must be yoked to Jesus Christ alone. How? By following His commandments in reality. If you're not yoked to Jesus then you're susceptible to being yoked to anything else.

You cannot serve God and cryptocurrency. With money, and with cryptocurrency, you are making a black and white choice between God and money.

Matthew 8:22 - And Jesus said to him, **Follow me**, and leave the dead to bury their own dead. (ESV)

Acts 8:18-21 - Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive **the Holy Spirit**. But Peter said to him, **May your silver perish with you**, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

This widow gave in **faith**, because she believes God will take care of her even if she gives everything (that's the mindset of faith), so long as it's lawful giving, we can give ourself away for others out of real love if it's in the truth:

Mark 12:41-44 - And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on. (ESV)

Following Jesus doesn't mean not providing for family. In fact, following Jesus does mean providing for family. So when you read Jesus' commandments and someone asks you for help, you give them what they need, without stealing though. If the money is for taking care of family, we must keep that. But our neighbour who we must love are more than just our immediate family. We are commanded by the Apostle Paul to provide for our family:

I Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (ESV)

Following Jesus comes first, even before following your family. To even love your family best is to put Jesus first. It's for their sake too:

Matthew 10:36-39 - And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

Mark 8:34 - And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (ESV)

It's black and white - we must be yoked to Jesus:

Mark 10:21 - And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

The thoughts that go through our minds must not be:

- How can I secure my life here on earth with enough crypto to be taken care of so I don't have to worry - that type of thinking is **enmity** against God. That's making money #1 and Jesus after that.

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

John 12:25 - Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (ESV)

The thoughts that go through our minds must be:

- How can I serve God agape-ing God, (valuing and treasuring Him, His name, His words, His precepts), and agape the light of the glory of God in Christ, cease to agape the world or the lusts of the world, and help to bring about the obedience of faith in Christ in other people, and agape other people. Where can I sow into the Kingdom of God? How can I agape people and show people that God agape's them, especially the neglected and needy, like in James 1:27.

James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (ESV)

Luke 9:23 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (ESV)

Luke 9:59-62 - To another he said, Follow me. But he said, Lord, let me first go and bury my father. And Jesus said to him, Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, **go and proclaim the kingdom of God**. Yet another said, I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home. Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Luke 18:22 - When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

You can't follow Jesus Christ's instructions in faith while asking OpenAI if it's OK. You can not be led by God and be led by an AI such as ChatGPT. You can not be led by God and be led by a Neuralink chip.

Matthew 8:22 - And Jesus said to him, **Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.** (ESV)

We have the Word of God. We can also walk in Jesus' commandments. We've got to be yoked to Jesus Christ. God can speak to us directly without internet, even through His Spirit, even in a dream.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

youtube.com: Christ is Enough - Hillsong Worship | LYRIC VIDEO Christ is enough for me. Everything I need is in You.

Now consider sermon-writing. If you were to short-circuit the process of writing a sermon by consulting an AI instead of listening to the Holy Spirit, (i.e. while not walking by the Spirit and while not keeping a good conscience with God and while not walking in His ways and while not with a sincere devotion to Christ and while not following Jesus (who is the Spirit) in your heart obedient to His commandments (God can see your heart), while not endeavouring to please God and not man), and you decide to short-change the Holy Spirit as Ananias did and just use an AI to come up with the sermon, or automate the process, then that would be abomination. This is what I'm talking about. That's the type of behaviour which would not be being led by the Holy Spirit. Rather, it would be allowing ones' thoughts to be led astray.

I Corinthians 2:12 - Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (ESV)

I John 2:27 - But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. (ESV)

Jesus is Jehovah, the Son of God. Jesus is Lord.

Watch youtube.com: !!MARK OF THE BEAST WARNING!! in Vatican AI Document - Fr. Mark Goring, CC {@FrMarkGoring}

Psalms 115:3-8 - Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them. (ESV)

Revelation of John 13:15 - And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. (ESV)

On <2022-07-03 Sun> I recorded a vision on my old blog which I had that day or the day before. It was most likely in the morning of 3 July 2022. It's not backed up on the internet archive. But this was its URL: <https://mullikine.github.io/posts/dream-sacred-heart-of-jesus/> I've still got the git repo offline.

Read mullikine.github.io: Vision: Sacred heart of Jesus, Technology and God's Army // Bodacious Blog

Description A most red swallowtail flag, red on top, blue as the bottom half stripe I think, rolled around a pole, with white on the flag too I think.

The words "St John 2 June/July 2000 - A very strong force indeed" were written on the flag.

There was something I remember also before seeing the flag. I was trying to build something. However, upon seeing the flag I thought 'This has already been built for me; The flag, that is'. But this is the year 2000 I thought! Was it possibly me who built this flag back then?

The most clear message - The Sacred Heart of Jesus: Angelus, 2 July 2000 | John Paul II

This is the most clear message from my dream. The precise date which it said.

vatican.va 5F20000702.html: Angelus, 2 July 2000 | John Paul II JOHN PAUL II - ANGELUS - Sunday 2 July 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

[1.] Last Friday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, that Heart which began to beat 2,000 years ago in the womb of Mary Most Holy and brought the fire of God's love into the world.

The Heart of Jesus contains a message for everyone; it also speaks to today's world. In a society where technology and informatics are developing at a growing rate, where people are caught up in thousands of often conflicting interests, they risk losing their centre, the centre of their very selves. By showing us his Heart, Jesus reminds us first of all that it is there, deep within himself, that each person's destiny is decided, his death or life in the definitive sense. He himself gives us life in abundance, which allows our hearts, sometimes hardened by indifference and selfishness, to be opened to a higher form of life.

The Heart of the crucified and risen Christ is the inexhaustible source of grace from which every individual can always draw love, truth and mercy, especially during this special year of the Great Jubilee.

[2.] The Blood of Christ has redeemed us. This is the truth which we proclaimed just yesterday, at the beginning of July, the month traditionally dedicated to the Precious Blood of Christ, at the Jubilee of the Sanguis Christi Union.

How much blood has been unjustly shed in the world! How much violence, how much contempt for human life!

This humanity, often wounded by hatred and violence, more than ever needs to experience the efficacy of Christ's redeeming Blood. That Blood, which was not shed in vain, contains all the power of God's love and is the pledge of hope, redemption and reconciliation. But in order to draw from this source, we must turn to the Cross of Christ and fix our gaze on the Son of God, on his pierced Heart, on that Blood poured out.

Also, an interesting fact I recorded on that blog article: Elon Musk meets the Pope July 2, 2022: Elon Musk meets Pope Francis, uses Twitter to announce the audience - NZ Herald

The vision was recorded in advance because I thought it was important at the time to record. We walk by faith (trusting obedience to Jesus), not 'natural/worldly' sight/appearances (II Corinthians 5:6-7):

Habakkuk 2:2-4 - And the LORD answered me: **Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time;** it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. (ESV)

John 7:24 - Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment. (ESV)

Last month the Vatican put out another article:

[vatican.va en.html: Antiqua et nova. Note AI and Our Relationship with God](#)

1 104. Technology offers remarkable tools to oversee and develop the world's
2 resources. However, in some cases, humanity is increasingly ceding control of
3 these resources to machines. Within some circles of scientists and futurists,
4 there is optimism about the potential of artificial general intelligence
5 (AGI), a hypothetical form of AI that would match or surpass human
6 intelligence and bring about unimaginable advancements. Some even speculate
7 that AGI could achieve superhuman capabilities. At the same time, as society
8 drifts away from a connection with the transcendent, some are tempted to turn
9 to AI in search of meaning or fulfillment-longings that can only be truly
10 satisfied in communion with God.[194]

11
12 105. However, the presumption of substituting God for an artifact of human
13 making is idolatry, a practice Scripture explicitly warns against (e.g., Ex.
14 20:4; Ex. 32:1-5; Ex. 34:17). Moreover, AI may prove even more seductive than
15 traditional idols for, unlike idols that "have mouths but do not speak; eyes,
16 but do not see; ears, but do not hear" (Ps. 115:5-6), AI can "speak," or at
17 least gives the illusion of doing so (cf. Rev. 13:15). Yet, it is vital to
18 remember that AI is but a pale reflection of humanity—it is crafted by human
19 minds, trained on human-generated material, responsive to human input, and
20 sustained through human labor. AI cannot possess many of the capabilities
21 specific to human life, and it is also fallible. By turning to AI as a
22 perceived "Other" greater than itself, with which to share existence and
23 responsibilities, humanity risks creating a substitute for God. However, it
24 is not AI that is ultimately deified and worshipped, but humanity
25 itself—which, in this way, becomes enslaved to its own work.[195]

An excerpt from John Piper on his take:

[youtube.com: Should I Use AI to Help Me Write Sermons? {@desiringGod}](#) ... If I had read that to you as my own it would have been **wicked**. This is what I want the folks to hear - *wicked*. I'm using a strong word because I feel strongly about this.

...

If you're going to have ChatGPT write your first draft and you're going to tweak it then you better say to your people, "ChatGPT, Artificial Intelligence has composed the word of God for you this morning."

Everything is coming into subjection, but some things might yet be in rebellion.

Hebrews 2:8 - putting everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. (ESV)

The idea of GPT generating sermons to me is abomination.

When John Piper here doesn't condemn using GPT to give 'inspiration' for writing sermons, I would condemn that practice, and the reason why I would condemn that practice would be similar to the reason why you wouldn't ask satan (who can recall bits of the word of God) to provide inspiration for a sermon.

An example: Lets say God wants you to preach a sermon on repentance today because there is someone who needs to hear a particular message, but you don't take time to listen to God, and instead you listen to the divination of an AI:

Acts 5:3 - But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? (ESV)

Now you instead preach a sermon on grace but not on repentance as God wanted you to preach on. So God's will isn't carried out. That's the issue. God has to be our only Teacher. Is turning left or right inherently wrong? Not unless God wanted you to turn one way or the other:

Isaiah 30:20-21 - And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, **This is the way, walk in it**, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

That's why AI should not be used as inspiration for sermons.

youtube.com: John Piper Asked ChatGPT to Write a Prayer {@thegospelcoalition} Why were you made? Words? Computers do words better than you. Seriously, better than me. Computers do words. They don't feel anything. Therefore, the universe is created to have people who feel. This is amazing. Think of it. The universe exists to have people in God's image who feel the worth of grace, who feel the glory of grace, who feel the beauty of grace, who feel the wonder of grace, and then everything in their life takes on a totally non AI meaning of action and praise to God.

AMEN, John Piper! I love my brother JP. Honestly though, there is more to this. What is a computer program but a bunch of commandments taught by men? They're not humans. Also, we need to keep the commandments of Christ.

Isaiah 29:13-14 - And the Lord said: Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden. (ESV)

Mark 7:6-8 - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men. (ESV)

I believe the following verse really is more a warning that if God isn't getting His glory through us praising Him then even the rocks would cry out. If Christianity has gotten to the point where people don't want to follow the commandments of Christ, but rather offload the 'hard task' of genuinely keeping Christ's commandments to some AI, and then 'the rocks cry out', then this is a warning to Christians. Computers are not people.

Luke 19:40 - He answered, I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out. (ESV)

Hmm. Yeah, my view is while using as a search engine for other sermons, say, or books, sure. But when deciding, say, topics to preach on or in composing sermons or getting opinions (i.e. getting inspiration for what to preach from something other than God), definitely don't use an AI.

I really don't like the idea of people incorporating AI in sermons, etc. It's so wrong. Considering that the machines are built on theft (stolen intellectual property) and greed (cannot serve both God and money). So if a servant of money (not a servant of God) builds an AI system which the church (who is meant to be the light of the world) uses as inspiration for sermons, then isn't this drinking from a corrupt spring?

You can get a lot of resources from satan too. I mean if one God wanted a pastor to preach on X on a certain day, but they preached on Y because they took inspiration from, say, a fortune-teller who was using divination (her heart wasn't right) to select a book, then satan may give them a book about Y, and they preach on Y, then that's like not OK. The man behind the pulpit needs to be Holy Spirit inspired.

Acts 16:16-18 - As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation. And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out that very hour. (ESV)

So if a pastor is lazy and isn't walking in the ways of the LORD and just getting inspiration from an AI, then they've lost their saltiness.

Acts 5:3-4 - But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God. (ESV)

In the words of Ignatius:

Ignatius to the Magnesians 10 - Therefore, having become His disciples, let us learn to live according to the principles of Christianity. For whosoever is called by any other name besides this, is not of God. Lay aside, therefore, the evil, the old, the sour leaven, and be ye changed into the new leaven, which is Jesus Christ. Be ye salted in Him, lest any one among you should be corrupted, since *by your savour ye shall be convicted*.

Right or left might both be scripturally correct, but God might want one or the other:

Isaiah 30:20-21 - And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

Read vatican.va/5F20000702.html: Angelus, 2 July 2000 | John Paul II

1 JOHN PAUL II - ANGELUS - Sunday 2 July 2000
2
3 Dear Brothers and Sisters!
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5 [1.] Last Friday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,
6 that Heart which began to beat 2,000 years ago in the womb of Mary Most
7 Holy and brought the fire of God's love into the world.
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9 The Heart of Jesus contains a message for everyone; it also speaks to
10 today's world. In a society where technology and informatics are developing
11 at a growing rate, where people are caught up in thousands of often
12 conflicting interests, they risk losing their centre, the centre of their

13 very selves. By showing us his Heart, Jesus reminds us first of all that it
14 is there, deep within himself, that each person's destiny is decided, his
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16 abundance, which allows our hearts, sometimes hardened by indifference and
17 selfishness, to be opened to a higher form of life.

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19 The Heart of the crucified and risen Christ is the inexhaustible source of
20 grace from which every individual can always draw love, truth and mercy,
21 especially during this special year of the Great Jubilee.

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23 [2.] The Blood of Christ has redeemed us. This is the truth which we
24 proclaimed just yesterday, at the beginning of July, the month
25 traditionally dedicated to the Precious Blood of Christ, at the Jubilee of
26 the Sanguis Christi Union.

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28 How much blood has been unjustly shed in the world! How much violence, how
29 much contempt for human life!

30
31 This humanity, often wounded by hatred and violence, more than ever needs
32 to experience the efficacy of Christ's redeeming Blood. That Blood, which
33 was not shed in vain, contains all the power of God's love and is the
34 pledge of hope, redemption and reconciliation. But in order to draw from
35 this source, we must turn to the Cross of Christ and fix our gaze on the
36 Son of God, on his pierced Heart, on that Blood poured out.

I might point out that even the reformation church would consider themselves as Catholic, but not 'Roman Catholic', and ostensibly 'Roman Catholics' also call would consider themselves to be Catholic. While I have not yet read through the whole of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which I plan on doing, I picked out this section here, after I discovered the term 'anti-gospel' as John Barnett had made reference to it.

saintaloyiuschurch.org: The Gospel vs. the Anti-Gospel Pope St. John Paul II, however, warned about an "anti-Gospel" proclaimed by an "anti-Church." Before Christ comes again, the Church will undergo a final test, a temptation to "apostasy," or rejection of the Gospel. The message of the "Antichrist" will be that we can glorify ourselves instead of glorifying God and his Son, Jesus Christ. It will be a temptation to set aside God's will to do whatever we want and to set aside God's Word in order to believe whatever we want. Isn't this precisely the temptation that the West has been giving in to more and more in recent decades? The prevailing cultural secularism has methodically excluded any meaningful reference to God or religion from the public square and refuses to tolerate even private religious convictions that challenge its own orthodoxies. Like John Lennon's infamous song of the 1970's, there is an insidious temptation to "imagine" that humanity will find true peace only by rejecting religion and its notions of "sin" and "holiness," "heaven" and "hell." This is the "anti-Gospel" in action. If we as Catholics accept this lie that true peace can be found without Jesus Christ and the repentance to which he calls us, then we risk becoming something of an "anti-Church." If we set aside the hard scriptural truths about things like sin and judgment for the sake of convenience or of winning the favor of others, we become the servants not of Jesus Christ, but of the anti-Christ. To remain faithful to our mission, the Church must live and proclaim all that Jesus Christ calls us to, even when it is no longer popular.

usccb.org: Catechism of the Catholic Church 675 Before Christ's second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the "mystery of iniquity" in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh.

Before someone brings this up this verse, I will mention it. If someone stole a child's meal and then sold it to me, I don't think that this has made it pure to me. Likewise, if someone steals someone's creative work and redistributes it, rehashing and redistributing it doesn't make it pure:

Titus 1:12-16 - One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. **To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure;** but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

I Timothy 4:1-5 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. (ESV)

When we consider that the 2 Great Commandments are to love God out of all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, with all our strength and our neighbour as ourself and that on these 2 Great Commandments depend all the Law and Prophets, how then is it any way lawful to make something using stolen assets in order to (intending with it to) build something that serves as a false god, as in so-called "artificial super intelligence"?

I personally think that holiness involves boycotting generative AI altogether unless it's guaranteed that the system has been built with the consent of all people who's work has contributed to the data which was used to train the AI. Even then, the research that has gone into building these systems is comparable to researching with stolen corpses from a graveyard before going legit and using corpses voluntarily donated. Read: <https://github.com/semiosis/thoughts-on-theology/blob/master/abominations.org>

Acts 16:16-18 - As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation. And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out that very hour. (ESV)

Micah 3:8-12 - But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who detest justice and make crooked all that is straight, who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity. Its heads give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its **prophets practice divination for money;** yet they lean on the LORD and say, Is not the LORD in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us. Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height. (ESV)

Ezekiel 13:22-23 - Because you have disheartened the righteous falsely, although I have not grieved him, and you have encouraged the wicked, that he should not turn from his evil way to save his life, therefore you shall no more see false visions nor practice divination. I will deliver my people out of your hand. And you shall know that I am the LORD. (ESV)

Ezekiel 13:9 - My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and who give lying divinations. They shall not be in the council of my people, nor be enrolled in the register of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord GOD. (ESV)

Genesis 44:4-5 - They had gone only a short distance from the city. Now Joseph said to his steward, Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, Why have you repaid evil for good? Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this. (ESV)

Now, here is the vision which I received:

Read mullikine.github.io: Vision: Sacred heart of Jesus, Technology and God's Army // Bodacious Blog

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 - But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?— when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him. (ESV)

Well, God is certainly greater than anything, having been able to give me a vision of this way back then. Bring every prophesy to Jesus. Test the spirits. Be like a Berean.

4.6.3 Identity in Christ vs identity in darkness

OK, so regarding where our 'identity' is found.

It is important that we are clinging to Jesus Christ who is our life. We must be trusting and obeying and having faith in God, and not in some device or identity created by man. Through faith in Jesus Christ we are who God tells us we are, and we cling to what God tells us, not to what the world says, not to what any device or scheme of man would say, with hope in God, and not on, say, 'artificial intelligence'. We've got to be yoked directly to Christ, not allowing anything or anyone to come between ourselves and Christ.

Faith in Christ, obedience to Christ, and love for Christ are all from the heart:

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

We must have a heart trusting, relying on, believing, believing in, clinging to, yoked to Jesus Christ, and not to darkness:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?** So we see that **they were unable to enter because of unbelief**. (ESV)

And we obey Him from the heart:

Romans 6:17-18 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, **love one another earnestly from a pure heart**, (ESV)

Our hearts are trained for obedience to Christ, not trained for greed, not trained to doubt in Christ, or doubt His commandments which are inseparable. The right way involves **wanting** to be healed (John 5:6) to have a pure conscience before God to serve God (**Hebrews 9:13-14**). The right way involves agape-loving, treasuring the right way. It involves a love of the Truth, not a love of sin:

II Peter 2:1-22 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And **many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed**. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then **the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority**. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! **Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray**. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. **They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption**. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire. (ESV)

And we love our Lord Jesus Christ, agape love Him **from** all our heart and with all our soul, mind and strength:

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And **the LORD your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (ESV)

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

Luke 15:21-22 - And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants, Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. (ESV)

We must have time for Jesus and treasure Him:

Matthew 22:1-14 - And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered,

and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast. But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find. And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen. (ESV)

I'm glad that God has given me a testimony. He gave it to me to protect me from what may be coming and whoever else might also use it as evidence. Though I hope and would prefer to be with Jesus and raptured, and not to have to endure a world saturated with artificial intelligence, I'm very thankful that God's given me a testimony.

The world might go down a trajectory of being led astray by this AI stuff, but God made me born-again and gave me a testimony.

I wont neglect Christ to be led astray by AI stuff. Being goaded by AI is not something which I want but I know for sure that God is bigger and Almighty.

Luke 10:17 - The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name! (ESV)

Praise be to God for His mercy to give me a testimony which I hope leads others to place their faith in Jesus, and find their identity in Christ.

To anyone who might try to push, say, a digital 'identity' onto me in order to get me to conform to that identity and to be obedient to that identity, or to try to push me into living in strict compliance or obedience to the godless 'predictions' of artificial intelligence rather than making a way for me to live independently of it as a conscientious objector, say, that as a Christian standing up for my faith, I would say to them that I am a child of God, and I serve Christ first and foremost and I do my best to maintain a good conscience with God, endeavouring to keep Christ's commandments faithfully, putting off sin as is my right as a believer in Jesus Christ and as I've been commanded to do by Christ, and if anything comes between me and obeying Christ, I will call it out and seek to obey Christ with all my heart, and will not be led by another (John 10:27, John 10:5), and I'll not renounce Christ.

[youtube.com: The Christian's Wardrobe {Colossians 3:12-17} {@trinitychurchaberdeen}](#) @time: 7 min 30s

But the point is well made: That's what baptism says to us. You've been united to Christ and you're given a new identity. I love to tell the story of a student I had very bright Asian student whose name was Timothy and his second name, relatively unpronounceable, and I got to know him well.

He was a very approachable student. Not all students are very warm spirited and I had a great affection for him. And I said to him one day, rather daringly, "Timothy," I said, "What's your real name?" Because I was sure it wasn't Timothy. He said, "Timothy." I said, "No, no I mean your *real* name." He said, "It's Timothy." And I'm thinking, 'He is having me on here.' So I said to him a third time, making a deep emotional appeal to him, "Timothy, what is your real name?" He said, "It's Timothy." And then I said, "What name did your parents give to you?" And out came this equally unpronounceable Asian name and so I said, "So that's your real name."

"No," he said. "Timothy is my real name. That's the name I was given when I was baptized." And I thought, 'If ever a student was teaching his Professor this was the moment.'

[earlychristianwritings.com martyrdompolycarp-lightfoot.html: The Martyrdom of Polycarp {Lightfoot trans}](#)

For he lingered that he might be delivered up, even as the Lord did, to the end that we too might be imitators of him, not looking only to that which concerneth ourselves, but also to that which concerneth our neighbors. For it is the office of true and steadfast love, not only to desire that oneself be saved, but all the brethren also.

[earlychristianwritings.com martyrdompolycarp-lightfoot.html](#): The Martyrdom of Polycarp {Lightfoot tr}

So after this all the multitude, marvelling at the bravery of the God-beloved and God-fearing people of the Christians, raised a cry, 'Away with the atheists; let search be made for Polycarp.'

I certainly wish that throughout my own trials that I had never made an upset prayer to God, though I'd affirm that Jesus has never done me wrong. Despite my wavering faith, He's gone on supporting my faith, giving me encouragements through the difficulties:

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But when the magistrate pressed him hard and said, 'Swear the oath, and I will release thee; revile the Christ,' Polycarp said, 'Fourscore and six years have I been His servant, and He hath done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?'

There are things I am prepared to stand against. I could imagine greedy atheists or money-worshippers wanting to play god with their money and trying to push digital identity onto people 'backed' by artificial 'intelligence'. One scenario I could imagine would be that a government, say builds some simulation of society with the AI stuff and then try to pin an identity onto people which is rooted in this simulation. and police or reward people according to the predictions made by this system. Even if it appears to be set up with non-malicious intent, say to minimise harm, it's still at the end of the day a man-made system that is not going to be perfect, and sanctification of the heart and soul can't come through obedience to a man-made system.

At the end of the day, God owns our ultimate obedience, and obedience to God should be our first instinct, and we should be maintaining a good conscience with God through repentance and confession, walking in love and Truth. I'll keep trying to remain faithful to and obey Jesus.

[youtube.com: I Pledge Allegiance To The Lamb - Ray Boltz {@taylordewd}](#) I pledge allegiance to the lamb; With all my strength, with all I am; I will seek to honor His commands; I pledge allegiance to the Lamb

I'm still in a position where finding employment has been made practically impossible to attain without either going back to the pre-baptised self (ie. denying Jesus by word or by works), and I'm waiting on a good samaritan or God Himself to open a door for me or rapture me.

I know that so long as I am maintaining a good conscience with God, sincerely endeavouring to obey Christ, my genuine will is to be obedient to Him, and I'm really giving Him sincere obedience, then when I get resistance to continuing to follow Jesus, I know that that resistance comes from the enemy. And I know I just have to be sincerely endeavouring to obey Christ out of a position of having been forgiven through faith in His blood, I know that no servant is greater than His master, and I have confidence.

I've encountered for years now this difficulty with finding work, but it's been far more difficult now after having come to Jesus for me to find work. Praise be to God and all glory to God, He's done in a work in me that I can say I sincerely love Him and have been set free from my selfishness.

Now regarding the threat of AI stuff. I could imagine a scenario, especially given any merger of church and state, that government might try to enforce 'obedience' to the AI system under a guise of trying to police Christ's commandments.

Ezekiel 33:6 - But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. (ESV)

But as I mentioned earlier, having an AI which can quote Bible verses and pretend to be a preacher is more of a warning to us that people have not been following Christ sincerely, rather than something to glory over. This technological creation is capable of doing a huge range of other tasks including misleading lots of people through false religion and misinformation. So if the rocks cry out, if the computers can scream AI-generated words which sound praiseworthy isn't the verse more of a warning that people themselves have lacked in praise and could be better honouring God from their heart with sincere worship from the heart in obedience and faith and love and hope.

Luke 19:40 - He answered, I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out. (ESV)

An AI can tell a person, say, that it would be Christlike to feed them, and then reward you with some 'social credit' or something. But trusting its judgement rather than the Holy Spirit, and following the AI directly rather than Christ directly would be following a false-Christ or a false-god. It's putting a false god between you and Christ, and obeying that false-God instead of Christ directly.

I John 4:4-6 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is Jehovah, Jesus Christ is Lord.

Consider this commandment:

Matthew 5:23-24 - So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (ESV)

If we offload the 'hard task' of "keeping Christ's commandments" to an AI, then it's not taking every thought captive for obedience to Christ, it's not purifying the heart and soul for obedience to the Truth, but rather for obedience to some artificial simulation, training an artificial false-Christ, training a false-god. I think Christians should be mindful of this.

youtube.com: Christ condemned. Good person? Eating disorders. Luz de Maria? Trump: LGBT, IVF. S

That's what love does. Love wills the good of the other and actually it's operative, it actually works for the good and sacrifices for the good of the other, and that's necessary for someone to be good, clearly. But again, that doesn't mean someone is going to go to heaven. He can be naturally good because he sees somebody hungry and he wants to feed them. You can be an atheist and still do that. Um, you can be an atheist and still be honest and not steal. You know, just because you're living up to your own standard of being a decent person, that's not going to get you to heaven, no.

Um, what is rewardable in the eyes of God, what is thankworthy in the eyes of God is if you actually follow Jesus Christ and follow his example and follow what he says, what he wants of us.

I believe the following verse really is more a warning that if God isn't getting His glory through us praising Him then even the rocks would cry out. If Christianity has gotten to the point where people don't want to follow the commandments of Christ, but rather offload the 'hard task' of genuinely keeping Christ's commandments from the heart to some AI, and then 'the rocks cry out', then this is a warning to Christians. Computers are not people and Christ gave **us** commandments and those commandments are for us human beings to follow. Christians are aim to arrive at the point where Christ's commandments have become unburdensome and we aim to take every thought captive for obedience to Christ and approach Christ's likeness.

Luke 19:40 - He answered, I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out. (ESV)

But it certainly helps to yoke myself to Christ now in advance of any potential threat to my ability to obey Christ directly and sincerely from the heart:

Matthew 22:21 - They said, Caesar's. Then he said to them, Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. (ESV)

Acts 5:27-29 - And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us. But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

Revelation of John 13:15-18 - And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666. (ESV)

[earlychristianwritings.com martyrdom/polycarp-lightfoot.html](http://earlychristianwritings.com/martyrdom/polycarp-lightfoot.html): **The Martyrdom of Polycarp {Lightfoot tr}**

Then he said to him again, 'I will cause thee to be consumed by fire, if thou despisest the wild beasts, unless thou repent.' But Polycarp said; 'Thou threatenest that fire which burneth for a season and after a little while is quenched: for thou art ignorant of the fire of the future judgment and eternal punishment, which is reserved for the ungodly. But why delayest thou? Come, do what thou wilt.'

[earlychristianwritings.com martyrdom/polycarp-lightfoot.html](http://earlychristianwritings.com/martyrdom/polycarp-lightfoot.html): **The Martyrdom of Polycarp {Lightfoot tr}**

Saying these things and more besides, he was inspired with courage and joy, and his countenance was filled with grace, so that not only did it not drop in dismay at the things which were said to him, but on the contrary the proconsul was astounded and sent his own herald to proclaim three times in the midst of the stadium, 'Polycarp hath confessed himself to be a Christian.'

II Corinthians 10:5-7 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. (ESV)

I have evidence from God that He is real, I live by obedience to God in the fear of God according to His commandments, and not to the fears of men with their commandments.

Mark 7:6-9 - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men. And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (ESV)

Christ's commandments must never be misconstrued as the commandments of men. The tradition of Christ, say of taking the Lord's Supper/Communion/Eucharist, which He gave us is not the same thing as the tradition of men.

I Corinthians 11:2 - Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. (ESV)

Regarding the term "means of grace" used in this video, the sacraments such as baptism and eucharist (
learn.ligonier.org: Joel Kim: Relying on the Means of Grace: 2025 National Conference

I'm just putting this out there, but there are many glorified saints who I would listen to, such as Polycarp, Clement of Rome and Ignatius. None are greater than their Master, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 10:14-24 - And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town. Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through

you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. (ESV)

This is a matter of where our identity is found - is it in Christ through faith, taking every through captive for obedience to Christ to His commandments, or is it to something else? If a person finds themselves serving an artificial image of God, then their identity is in the AI and not in God.

Putting faith in AI to save you would be clinging to the corpse of the world and not to Christ.

Now consider these verses here:

Colossians 3:1-10 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (ESV)

There's a difference between "having sin" and committing sin. Those who hope in Him (who hope in Jesus Christ), purify themselves, and stop committing sin. If we do commit sin, then we confess it and turn away from it:

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

We should walk in an agape love of the truth, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. So we confess sin as sin, and confess when we have done sin, love God's precepts, and we hate sin and we love one another and love Jesus Christ, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (we are sanctified). Our consciences are purified to serve God:

I John 1:6-10 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

I John 3:5-8 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (ESV)

OK, so when we 'have' sin (corruption/defilement), we need **purification** from sin, and we can be purified as we hold our faith in Jesus Christ and confess our sin, and if we continue in faithful obedience to Him, even loving one another with the type of love which Jesus commanded us to have for one-another, we are washed by His blood. When we commit sin, it defiles and we should confess that sin. We are supposed to keep a good conscience with God:

I John 1:6-10 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

Committing new sin is what John says those who are born of God stop doing. Committing new sin is what we must stop doing in order to remain in God's house (John 8:34-35). I believe that Christians must get there (I John 3:1-3, Romans 6:13-23).

OK, so there is a difference between having "defilement"/sin (if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.) and committing new "defilement"/sin (Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.). Being born-again, holding our faith in Jesus, hoping in Him, we purify ourselves, we stop committing sin and we instead live to obey God, obey Jesus, we have faith in Him and love one other as He commanded us:

I John 3:9-10 - No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

A person might "have sin" but be repentant and love the truth and hate the sin. They might treasure Jesus and treasure God's Law and grieve their indwelling sin.

See how in Romans 7:22-23 Paul says he delights in God's law but "indwelling sin" is fighting against his mind. Paul has the love of the truth in his heart. Paul is in Christ with the love of the truth.

In other words, a person might "have sin" but also love the truth; they love God, they love Jesus, they love what God has done sending Jesus Christ into the world, and they prefer light to darkness, and they want to be pure (John 5:6) as Jesus as pure.

When I make mistakes or commit sin, I do my best to confess it as sin and forsake it.

If a person is being sanctified (cleaned up, set apart) then they might "have indwelling sin" (Romans 7:19-20). But they are resisting sin, as in "stopping sin", consciously choosing to obey Christ instead of obey sin.

That's obviously a battle.

We don't trust in, hope in, have faith in sin as sin is deceitful and would lead us astray:

Hebrews 3:13 - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:17-19 - And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

We have to trust in, hope in, have faith in God through Jesus Christ, and stop trusting in sin:

John 12:44 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. (ESV)

We have to love God, love the truth, love Jesus Christ, serve Jesus Christ, love, trust in, be obedient to Jesus Christ from our hearts and consequently hate darkness, hate indwelling sin, hate evil, hate separation from God:

Romans 7:19-20 - For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (ESV)

Romans 7:22-25 - For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

We come into agreement with the truth, we agree with what God says, and that includes agreeing with God over matters of what is sin:

Romans 7:16 - Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. (ESV)

I John 1:9 - If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

We should keep the word of truth in our hearts, hold on to it, trust it and obey it and if the word of truth remains in us then we will also remain in the Son and in the Father. We **must** abide in love:

I John 2:24-25 - As for you, let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you. If it does, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He Himself made to us: eternal life. (engbsb2020eb)

From infants in Christ to maturity, people who keep Jesus' commandments are found in Christ who is in God:

John 13:6-8 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

John 15:1-17 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

Our relationship with Christ comes first. We must be purified by the Truth, doing what qualifies us to be found with identity in Christ Jesus. What does God want of us? To believe in Jesus Christ is who He and Father God has testified Him to be, and to love Him (Christ), to believe, trust and obey Him from the heart and Christ commanded us to love one another and He also said to love those who hate you:

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)

John 10:35-38 - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

Going forward, being found in Christ, we are safe:

Titus 1:15 - To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. (ESV)

It's definitely a spiritual battle, and we follow Jesus and wrestle against what tries to prevent us from doing so:

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

youtube.com: 2,000 YEAR OLD PROPHECY ON AI {@DTBM} @time: 18 min 10 sec But Satan plus the demons into this 'creature', whatever it is, this image, makes me ask to believers, "What's your source of Truth?" Have you ever thought how quickly they update everything on the internet? I mean, did you know that the majority of students - do you know what the majority of them come to class with?

This (a smartphone) is their Bible. Their parents and grandparents have one of these (a hardcover Bible). This (a smartphone) is their (young people) Bible. What happens when Bible Gateway or, I don't even know the names of all of them, the online Bibles that everyone has, what happens when they're either turned off?

...

I would think carefully about the world we're going into.

I have always this old fuddy-duddy antique thing because this (smartphone) runs out of battery and they can turn Logos off instantly.

You understand that. They can turn off whatever online Bible you use. It's amazing to think about. So what's your source of Truth? Is it the internet or AI spewed out answers, or is it the spirit of Truth through God's word?

4.6.4 Make friends with charity while money hasn't yet failed

Money is temporary. While it's in your hands, make friends with it, by giving in charity to those in need.

Money will fail - bitcoin will fail, ethereum will fail, and when it fails people will see you as a friend.

Luke 16:1-8 - He also said to the disciples, There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager. And the manager said to himself, What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses. So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, How much do you owe my master? He said, A hundred measures of oil. He said to him, Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty. Then he said to another, And how much do you owe? He said, A hundred measures of wheat. He said to him, Take your bill, and write eighty. The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. (ESV)

Luke 16:8-9 - And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. (ESV)

4.6.5 In this world God can see if we are to be trusted with true heavenly wealth by seeing how we used our money

Luke 16:11-12 - If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

I Timothy 6:9-10 - But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (ESV)

4.6.6 We must actually make following Jesus a reality to take hold of the eternal life to which we are called

We make the confession, but we must then take hold of it.

I Timothy 6:11-12 - But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (ESV)

5 Great commission

Obedience to Jesus' commandments (repentance from sin):

Luke 24:46-47 - and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that **repentance** (G3341 metanoia) and **forgiveness** (G859 aphesis) of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Obedience to Jesus' commandments (becoming disciples, obeying Jesus' commandments):

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and **the Holy Spirit**, teaching them to observe **all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Keeping the commandments is how to love and Christian's are called to keep God's commandments

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. (ESV)

We're sure that we abide in Christ **while** we are keeping His commandments:

I John 2:1-6 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And **by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.** Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but **whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.** By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

The word tereo means (to keep, observe, obey, follow). Commandments are for obeying. That's all they are for. This observance means to remember and practice. Nowhere in the Bible does it teach to disobey God:

Matthew 28:20 - teaching them to **follow** all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (NASB2020)

Don't teach against needing to do Jesus' commandments. To do so is to teach people to **not be a part** of Jesus' family. It's great how God has given us Hebrew and Greek to make this unambiguous:

Deuteronomy 5:27 - Go near and hear all that the LORD our God will say and speak to us all that the LORD our God will speak to you, and we will hear **and do it.** (ESV)

It's not just the red letters:

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God **and do it.** (ESV)

Obedience to Jesus' commandments (trusting Jesus and being baptised):

Mark 16:15-18 - And he said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.

After Peter had denied being Jesus' disciple 3 times (John 18:15-27) before Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus reintegrated Peter, asking him 3 times if he loved Him. Each time Peter affirmed that he agape-loved Jesus, Jesus gave him a commandment to feed His sheep. Instead of saying, "Peter, I gave you a chance and you failed me." Jesus lets Peter reaffirm His love for Him and gives Him another chance to willfully do His will. That's grace:

John 21:15-17 - When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Feed my lambs. He said to him a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Tend my sheep. He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, Do you love me? and he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep.

Abiding in Jesus' love, we keep His commandments;

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

Keeping Jesus Christ's commandments is a requirement to inherit eternal life, not an extra:

John 15:10 - **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

The original Apostles were instructed to feed Jesus' sheep with the living bread that is Jesus Christ. Likewise, in living testimony we should teach others to walk the way of righteousness:

John 6:33 - For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Repentance leads to the knowledge of the truth, and ceasing to do the devil's will:

II Timothy 2:24-26 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them **repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil**, after being **captured by him to do his will**. (ESV)

I'm no expert on Torah, Mitzvah, or Jewish stuff but I know do know Jesus and the Apostles calls people to follow the 2 great commandments and the 10 commandments from the heart. Why would God make a distinction in Exodus 16 between commandments (mitsvah) and instructions/law (towrah)? I think because they are fundamentally different. The 10 commandments are always important for people to follow, even born-again Christians.

Genesis 26:5 - because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (ESV)

Exodus 16:28 - Then the Lord (H3068 Yhovah) said (H559 'amar) to Moses (H4872 Mosheh), "How (H575 'an) long (H5704 'ad) do you refuse (H3985 ma'en) to keep (H8104 shamar) My commandments (H4687 mitsvah) and My instructions (H8451 towrah)? (NASB)

The Israelites should have followed the commandments by faith:

Romans 9:32-33 - Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

Sigh ok rant time. Some ideas. I may be wrong about things by the way. I'm not without sin:

We're supposed to follow the 10 commandments by faith in God who sees our hearts. It's not works-based. How could a commandment to rest be works-based anyway? It's obedience, not works. And then heart obedience should have an after effect of walking uprightly, producing good works. But the way I believe we're supposed to follow the 10 commandments is from sincerity of heart. It's following them in reality from the heart, not of the flesh, trying to please God and not man, and should be entirely compatible with obeying Jesus. If for the sake of keeping a smaller law or commandment, a person breaks God's higher precepts of mercy, justice, faithfulness, etc. in order to enforce a less important issue, then that's not obeying properly. There's a lawful way to keep the law. For example, when the Pharisees told Jesus off for healing on the Sabbath, when the 2 great commandments are to love God and one's neighbour. Obeying God comes first. Having faith in Jesus, serving Jesus, obeying Jesus comes first.

Heb 4:9-11 - So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

I Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

The law judges people who are not walking by the Spirit (walking in obedience to Christ, walking under the law/commandment of Christ):

Romans 2:11-12 - For God shows no partiality. For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. (ESV)

5.1 Even the Old Testament makes a person wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus:

desiringgod.org: How to Get Wisdom: Become a Fool | Desiring God

Trust and believe:

Isaiah 53:7-8 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? (ESV)

Isaiah 53:12 - Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (ESV)

Trust and obey:

II Timothy 3:12-17 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been **acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

Song Trust And Obey - Big Daddy Weave - YouTube

5.2 Jesus

Jesus is the Word. The world was made through Jesus:

John 1:9-11 - The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (ESV)

Jesus is the divinely appointed servant of God:

Isaiah 53:4-6 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (ESV)

Matthew 20:27-28 - and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

He's the image of God:

Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Let It Be Christ - The Sations

5.3 Belief

Jesus has life in Him, and the life is the Light of men - the true Light.

John 5:26 - For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 5:21 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

John 6:33 - For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

John 1:4 - In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. (ESV)

John 1:9 - The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (ESV)

1 John 2:8 - At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. (ESV)

John 1:6-7 - There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

John 9:5 - As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (ESV)

John 12:36 - While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

We testify about the Light, so that through our testimony, others might believe.

Matthew 5:14 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (ESV)

Philippians 2:15 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (ESV)

Colossians 1:12 - giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (ESV)

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:5 - For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. (ESV)

To anyone who receives Jesus, even those who believe on His name, Jesus has given the right to become children of God, to be born of God.

John 1:11-13 - He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe (G4100 pisteuo) in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

I John 2:10 - Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. (ESV)

Yes, I believe that Jesus can save a person who believes in His name. But He is the judge, and it is written in John's gospel that no person who remains disobedient to Jesus Christ will see life, and I believe that.

Revelation of John 3:8 - I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

We abide in Jesus when He washes us. When the Holy Spirit washes us, the Holy Spirit helps us to put sin to death:

John 13:8 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Peter believed/received/obeyed/trusted like a child of God (he cooperated) to let Jesus wash him but it was Jesus doing the work:

John 13:9 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! (ESV)

We call on Jesus to wash us:

Acts 22:16 - And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name. (ESV)

I think Jesus calls us to pursue perfection through following Him, and we should definitely give it a go:

John 17:23 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

In God's unconditional love He has paid the price for us to be saved from sin and death and hell:

John 3:16 (Interlinear) Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 agapaó - *value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. monogenes - *unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 hina - *in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 pisteuo) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

I John 4:9-12 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

We must accept God's love and forgiveness and keep Jesus' word, His commandments, and God's love will be perfected in us and He and Father God will make Their abode in us. There is a conditional aspect of God's unconditional love for us:

John 14:23-24 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

I John 4:15-19 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper Hold fast in obedience to what you have heard and believed. John 14:22 really bothers some people. John 14:22, here's what it says: "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." This is not unconditional love. This is profoundly **conditional**. I'll read it again: "Lord how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and **not to the world**, to us - we are your disciples. If anyone loves me he will keep my word and my father will love him - In a way that he doesn't love everybody! My father will love him, and We will come to him to that one who loves us and keeps our word. We will come to that one, make our home, our abode, with him. There is an experience of intimacy and at homeness with Jesus and the father that comes only through **obedience**. Those who love me so much that keeping my word is **not** the works of the law, but the overflow of their affections for Me - and how could we not move into such in such a heart with the *fullness* of the at homeness that you longed for. If anyone keeps My word, holds fast treasures it, in obedience, that person will not be quenching the spirit, that person will not be grieving the spirit, but will know the fullness and sweetness of fellowship with the Father and the Son. If you're watching pornography every week, do not expect this experience - you won't have it. If you're harsh with your wife, you won't have it.

We aim for perfection / to be made complete / full restoration:

II Corinthians 13:11 - Finally, brethren, farewell. **Be perfect**, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. (KJV)

II Corinthians 13:11-14 - Finally, brethren, rejoice, **be made complete**, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit**, be with you all. (NASB)

Paul presses on to try to live like Christ, and his rationale is that Jesus made him (Paul) his own (i.e. Jesus loved him), and Paul loves Jesus back, so he wants to be obedient out of love for Jesus (I'm convinced that's the motivation). He wants to be with Jesus.

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

We are transformed into Christ's image from one degree of glory to another:

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from **the Lord who is the Spirit**. (ESV)

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuó, pepisteukotas) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

Disciples of Jesus have love for one another, just the same way that Jesus loved us (with selfless love):

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

Serving Jesus literally looks a lot like serving other people with selfless love, just as Jesus has practically defined it through His commandments and His example:

Matthew 25:40 - And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (ESV)

Jesus' teaching is extremely important for Christians to abide in. Jesus' teaching comes from the same God, Jehovah:

John 7:16 - So Jesus answered them, My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. (ESV)

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

I Timothy 6:3-4 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, (ESV)

Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (ESV)

I'm pretty convinced that what Jesus means by the following is that by giving up worldly treasure in the pursuit of Jesus, heavenly treasure is acquired. I'd say it's likely that the heavenly treasure is simply helping those people. Selling what a person possesses and giving to the poor is actually serving Jesus, so doing that is already starting to obediently follow Jesus.

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

Jesus' perfect example of patience in mercy towards Paul is to:

- reassure us that we can trust Jesus as we hope for the promise of eternal life to be received from Him,
- for us to see that trusting in Him, we are loved by God and led by His love, following Him in patient [endurance] out of a response of love for Him, trusting in Him, as we receive mercy from Him

I Timothy 1:16 - But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. (ESV)

We are set free from sin to become slaves of God. The fruit of being a slave to God leads to sanctification and at its end, eternal life:

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been **set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life**. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Salvation is something which we are destined for at the end of our sanctification:

I Thessalonians 5:9-10 - For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (ESV)

Can you be overcome by sin again? Yes, you can. But we're supposed to be overcome by practicing righteousness. Jesus sets us free, washes and regenerates us. Once that happens, we must not go back into sin.

Hebrews 6:4-8 - For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. (ESV)

Romans 6:7 - For one who has died has been set free from sin. (ESV)

Believers are sanctified in God's Truth, His Word - they are corrected to obey in word and deed:

John 17:14-17 - I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

Romans 15:18 - For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, (ESV)

Keeping Jesus' commandments, we come to know Him:

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

I John 3:17 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

I John 4:20-21 - If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

You are not your own:

I Corinthians 6:17-20 - But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the **Holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own**, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Romans 13:14 - But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

We must keep ourselves in the love of God by obeying Jesus Christ's commandments, because we're awaiting to receive eternal life:

Jude 1:21 - **keep yourselves in the love of God**, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

Keeping Jesus Christ's commandments is a requirement to inherit eternal life, not an extra:

John 15:10 - **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

True belief:

John 5:46-47 - If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

Whoever truly believes Jesus trusts in and is obedient to Jesus. We must obey Jesus Christ, and that obedience means being a slave of righteousness, leading to sanctification, which leads to eternal life:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 πιστεύων (pisteuōn): This is the present participle form of the verb “πιστεύω” (G4100 pisteuō), meaning “to believe” or “to have faith.” In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as “believing.”

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuōn - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. katechó) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

I think believing in the Son is also obedience, but it is an act of obedience which is a gift to us.

It's God's grace that enables us to be saved through faith. While we are saved exercising obedient, trusting, believing faith, Paul says it was actually God's doing:

Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (ESV)

John 6:68 - Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Show Us Christ - Sovereign Grace

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing through the word of Christ**. (ESV)

John 4:14 - but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (ESV)

The word for 'believe' which is used in the New Testament is the verb for faith and actually means to 'trust':

- In John 3:16, 'Believe' Means More than Believe | by Eric Sentell | Koinonia | Medium

The ancient Greek word for "believe" is *pisteuō*, which derives from "belief" or "*pistis*." The word "/*pistis*/" stems from *peíthō*, to persuade or be persuaded.

The Greek word *pisteuō* carries connotations of deep trust and confidence. It means to believe, to entrust, to have confidence in something.

Have faith in God and have faith in Jesus:

John 14:1 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe (G4100 *pisteuo*) in God, believe (G4100 *pisteuo*) also in Me.

Pisteuo means to trust. Trust in God, trust also in God's Son Jesus:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts** (G4100 *pisteuo*) him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

I think faith is more like hopeful/trusting belief that results in action (walking by faith).

Examples:

- sailing across the Atlantic to find America.
- obeying Jesus' commandments out of seeking Jesus, or out of belief and love for Jesus, believing that God sees.

5.4 Fun acronyms

FAITH Fear aint in this house

BIBLE Basic instructions before leaving earth

HANDS honors, attributes, names, deeds, seat

APEST <https://ministryvitals.com/the-5-roles-in-apest/>

5.4.1 A H.A.N.D.S. Approach to Showing Jesus is God

Firstly, I understand that Jesus Christ is God in that He is the Son of God, but that also Jehovah is God. I believe that Jesus Christ is Jehovah in that He is God the Son, but there is also God the Father:

Proverbs 30:4 and John 3:13-7 talk about God and His Son:

Proverbs 30:4 - Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know! (ESV)

John 3:13-17 - No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)

Colossians 2:9-10 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. (ESV)

What reasons do we have for thinking that Jesus is truly God? Robert M. Bowman Jr. and J. Ed Komoszewski in their book Putting Jesus in His Place: The Case for the Deity of Christ published by Kregel in 2007, offer a simple and memorable way to do this. Using the acronym H.A.N.D.S., they reason that the Bible teaches that Jesus shares the Honour due only to God, that Jesus shares the Attributes of God, that Jesus shares the Names ascribed to God, that Jesus does the Deeds that only God can do, and that Jesus is Seated on the throne of God. Here are a few of the lines of evidence from the Scriptures that we can draw on.

H - Honour:

Scripture indicates that God alone is to be worshipped:

Deuteronomy 6:13 - It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. (ESV)

Matthew 4:9-10 - And he said to him, All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

Yet Jesus is worshipped and accepts such worship:

Matthew 14:33 - And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, Truly you are the Son of God. (ESV)

Hebrews 1:6 - And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, Let all God's angels worship him. (ESV)

Revelation of John 1:17 - When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, Fear not, I am the first and the last, (ESV)

So who does that mean Jesus truly is? If Jesus were merely human it would be wrong to honour Him as God alone is to be honoured. Yet, we read that devout Jews in the New Testament bowed down and worshipped Jesus (i.e. “doubting” Thomas in **John 20:28**) and Jesus accepted that worship:

John 20:28 - Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! (ESV)

If Jesus were merely human it would be wrong to honour Him as God. Yet devout Jews in the New Testament bowed down and worshipped Jesus.

A - Attributes:

The Bible tells us that Jesus has the same attributes as God, being eternal:

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. (ESV)

all-powerful:

Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (ESV)

all-knowing:

John 21:17 - He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, Do you love me? and he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep. (ESV)

loving:

Romans 8:35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

If someone possessed the same characteristics, the same nature as God, in the same way that God did, what would that make Him?

I do recognise that if it wasn't for the salvation which God gives us in His Son Jesus, God would be against us because of sin. But God, out of His love, has appeased His own wrath towards those who are saved by Jesus:

Romans 1:18 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness (763. asebeia) and unrighteousness (93. adikia) of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (ESV)

Colossians 3:5-8 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. (ESV)

N - Names:

(Phil. 2:9-11). Jesus is called God (John 20:28), Lord (Acts 1:24), the King of kings (Rev 19:16), Saviour (Luke 2:11), and the First and the Last (Rev 1:7-8):

Jesus is said to have been given the name that is above every other name:

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (G1843 exomologeó) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ESV)

John 20:28 - Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! (ESV)

Acts 1:24 - And they prayed and said, You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen (ESV)

Revelation of John 19:16 - On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Petra - King of Kings / Jesus, Jesus, Glorious One {@UnknownPetraFan}

Luke 2:11 - For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (ESV)

Revelation of John 1:7-8 - Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. (ESV)

It would be wrong to call any older man our father, so if Jesus receives such titles, that is saying a lot about who He is:

Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (ESV)

D - Deeds:

All things were made *through* Him:

John 1:3 - All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (ESV)

The sustainer of all things:

Hebrews 1:2-3 - but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed **the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (ESV)

He is sovereign over the forces of nature:

Matthew 8:23-27 - And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, Save us, Lord; we are perishing. And he said to them, Why are you afraid, O you of little faith? Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him? (ESV)

He is the one who forgives sins:

Matthew 9:1-8 - And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven. And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, This man is blaspheming. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Rise and walk? But that you may know that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins** — he then said to the paralytic—Rise, pick up your bed and go home. And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. (ESV)

He is one who gives life:

John 1:4 - In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (ESV)

John 5:21 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. (ESV)

In fact it could be said that everything that God does for us, Jesus does for us. How should one respond to such blessings?

S - Seat:

Jesus sits on God's throne:

Revelation of John 3:21 - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (ESV)

Jesus is ruling over all things:

Revelation of John 5:13 - And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! (ESV)

This is nothing short of claiming to be equal with God:

John 10:27-33 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one. The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me? The Jews answered him, It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God. (ESV)

Jesus is the judge of all history, of the entire world, of each person – to Him every knee will bow. Just as Buckingham Palace is the residence of the Queen, so the one who reigns sovereignly from heaven can be none other than the God of gods.

5.5 Our obedient faith should be penitent, and should be without partiality. We *aim* for perfection, to be conformed to Christ's image

John Piper - "Faith is the baking our hope on the mercy of God."

Obeying Jesus should be impartial:

James 2:1 - My brothers, show no partiality **as you hold the faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)

John Piper - "Mercy means that **our obedience doesn't have to be perfect, it has to be penitent.**"

Sermon youtube.com: God's Delight in Obedience @time: 24 min 19 sec

II Corinthians 13:11 - Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (NASB)

II Corinthians 13:11 - Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. (KJV)

II Corinthians 13:11-14 - Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (ESV)

5.5.1 Faith is not merely belief, but faith is walking as Abraham did - believing and obedient

Obedience to God is faith. Abraham went to live in the land of promise by **obedience**:

Genesis 12:1-8 - Now the **LORD** said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. **So Abram went, as the LORD had told him**, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. **When they came to the land of Canaan**, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, To your offspring I will give this land.** So he built there an altar to the **LORD**, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the **LORD** and called upon the name of the **LORD**. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:9 says that Abraham went to live in the land of promise by **faith**:

Hebrews 11:9 - By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. (ESV)

Disbelief causes disobedience. Disbelief caused the Israelites to not walk in obedience:

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who **heard and yet rebelled**? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were **disobedient**? So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief**. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:13 - though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because **I had acted ignorantly in unbelief**, (ESV)

By unrighteousness and ungodliness, people suppress the Truth of God:

Romans 1:17-18 - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, The righteous shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness (763. asebeia) and unrighteousness (93. adikia) of men, who **by their unrighteousness suppress the truth**. (ESV)

When people give up the Truth of God and **suppress** the Truth of God, then God gives them over to destruction:

Romans 1:19-25 - For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie** and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (ESV)

We love God and God's power through His Spirit helps us to serve Him to do works that are pleasing to Him:

II Timothy 3:1-5 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be **lovers of self**, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unapeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, **not loving good**, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (5377. philotheos), **having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.** Avoid such people. (ESV)

Paul taught that we accept God's forgiveness for our sins by placing our trusting faith in Jesus, paid Jesus' blood. God cleans our heart. And out of a pure heart and good conscience and sincere faith we love God and one another:

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

While our good works can't make atonement for our sin, we are sanctified by Jesus' blood as we hold fast to the Truth and are corrected by and believe the Truth when we hear it and as we obey Righteousness (Jesus, the Truth). The Truth is the Word of God. Be believe and obey Jesus and we are sanctified in the Truth as we believe and obey Jesus. We must still be granted forgiveness from God. We know that anyone who places their trust in Jesus receives this forgiveness:

Hebrews 9:22 - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

God judges very fairly, but we must not reject Jesus:

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

God judges very fairly. He judges the hearts of all people. Christians should naturally serve and obey Jesus as they hold their faith in Jesus. The gospel of Jesus is the power of salvation to all that believe/trust/obey:

Romans 2:1-16 - Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself **on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.** **He will render to each one according to his works:** to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. **There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.** For God shows no partiality. For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified.** For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and **their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.** (ESV)

We still need to accept forgiveness from God that our sins are forgiven. We can't reject the forgiveness of God. We need God's forgiveness:

Romans 4:7-10 - Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. (ESV)

Therefore we must trust Jesus, trust in Jesus, receive Jesus Christ Son of God as our Lord and Saviour:

Acts 10:43: Of Him all **the prophets bear witness** that **through His name** everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

Once again, we must not reject Jesus:

Hebrews 3:15-19 - As it is said, Today, **if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.** For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but **to those who were disobedient?** So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief.** (ESV)

We hear the gospel, and we receive salvation through faith. Reaching it is a journey of applied faith:

Hebrews 4:1-2 - Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. (ESV)

The rest goes to the one who takes Jesus' yoke and learns from Him. Obedience to Jesus will result in finding rest for your soul:

Matthew 11:28-29 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,** for I am gentle and lowly in heart, **and you will find rest for your souls.** (ESV)

The rest goes to those who have believed. Believing in Jesus is obedience to the gospel:

Hebrews 4:3 Interlinear: for we do enter into the rest – we who did believe, as He said, 'So I swear in My anger, If they shall enter into My rest – ;' and yet the works were done from the foundation of the world,

Hebrews 4:3 - For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest, although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.

We work then find rest:

Revelation of John 14:13 - And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! (ESV)

That rest looks like living for the will of God (i.e. faith in Jesus, faith in God, our sanctification, keeping His commandments, putting a stop to breaking the 10 commandments from the heart, putting a stop to false-witnessing, idolatry etc., so faith in God believing the gospel, producing agape love especially for our family in Christ):

I Peter 4:1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

The demons have belief and believe certain facts about God, but they don't have a response of love towards God. They don't have a trusting, yielding, loving, serving response which seeks to come under the Lordship of Jesus and keep Jesus' commandments, turning away from what God hates:

James 2:19 - You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! (ESV)

The demons are still subject to Jesus:

Luke 10:17 - The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name! (ESV)

Judas was like a demon:

John 6:70 - Jesus answered them, Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil. (ESV)

Matthew 26:50 - Jesus said to him, Friend, do what you came to do. Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. (ESV)

The love of the truth (treasuring the truth) must be received and accepted to be saved:

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

People will put their trust in and love what is false:

II Thessalonians 2:11 - For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe (G4100 pisteuo) what is false (G5579 pseudos), (NASB)

Those people who did not have faith in the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness may be condemned. True 'pistis' faith involves an agape love of the truth as I Thes 2:10 shows:

II Thessalonians 2:12 - in order that all may be condemned who did not believe (G4100 pisteuo) the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The love of the truth involves faith in the truth (which agape-loves the truth) and sanctification (being corrected, cleaned up by the truth through trusting and obeying the Truth, trusting and obeying Jesus Christ):

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Agape love not only assents to but rejoices with the truth:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

Yes, believing certain facts about God are important:

John 20:29-31 - Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

Luke 24:25-26 - And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? (ESV)

There are some doctrines that are so essential that to deny them is to not be a Christian:

I John 4:2 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, (ESV)

I John 2:22 - Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. (ESV)

II John 1:7 - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (ESV)

Love for God in love for Jesus is an important part of our faith in. God loves us because we love Jesus obeying His commandments even to trust in Him and believe the facts about Him, believing He came from God:

John 16:26-27 - In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Jesus was and is obedient to Father God:

John 6:38 - For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me,** for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

Jesus loves Father God. Jesus obeyed God with perfect self-humbling obedience **so that the world may know that He loves Father God:**

John 14:31 - but **I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.** Rise, let us go from here. (ESV)

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV)

In response to forgiveness, we must love:

Luke 7:47 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. (ESV)

He loved us first, and that is why and how we love (knowing we've already received mercy). Christ's love is not simply charity but a) it's passing-forward Christ's love, and b) it's to relieve other's burdens (mercy, not sacrifice):

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

John 15:9-13 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

Acts 2:45 - And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (ESV)

We should have a loving response to God for Him having saved us. It certainly appears that not having a loving/obedient/thankful response to God for His mercy, we may miss out on 'entering into the joy of our master':

Matthew 25:23 - His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. (ESV)

Our response might be a positive response of proclaiming to others how much God has done for them - giving God the glory:

Luke 8:39 - Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him. (ESV)

We **must** have a response of love for Jesus:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

So we want to have a response of love for Jesus:

Luke 12:48 - But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. (ESV)

As a husband loves his wife, so Jesus loves us. As a wife respects her husband, so must the members of Christ's body respect Christ:

Ephesians 5:30-33 - because we are members of his body. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (ESV)

Jesus is so generous that He saves people who turn out to be unthankful, but we should definitely love Jesus as a response. This story should be taken not only to see how Good God is, but also taken as a warning against unthankfulness:

Luke 17:11-19 - On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. When he saw them he said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And he said to him, Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

We must know that God loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We must believe:

I John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

We must obey:

II John 1:5-6 - And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. (ESV)

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, **We must obey God** rather than men. (ESV)

We must obey Jesus and love one another:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

Luke 6:46-48 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not **do what I tell you**? Everyone who comes to me and **hears my words and does them**, I will show you **what he is like**: **he is like** a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. (ESV)

The knowledge comes from having obeyed God's voice. Love becomes perfected in us when we abide in God:

I John 4:15-17 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

John 8:55 - But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. (ESV)

In order to know God we must love one another in the way that God has loved us:

I John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

5.5.2 Joy and obedience - we want both of them at the same time

John Piper stresses that although obeying sin steals your joy, making Jesus your Pearl of Great Price makes it much easier to forsake sin.

youtube.com: What Comes First: My Obedience to Jesus or My Joy in Jesus? When we are living in disobedience to Christ our joy in him will be minimal or non-existent depending on the depth and duration of the disobedience.

By all means forsake bad behaviors but mainly the battle is look to Jesus look to all that God is for you in him and pray for eyes to see his all satisfying beauty and worth so that you rest in him and are so satisfied that the root of sin is severed and you walk in obedience.

I personally believe that **joy comes from having been given and maintaining a good conscience with God.**

II Corinthians 1:12 - For our boast is this: the testimony of our conscience that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

johnrasicci.wordpress.com: JOY FROM A CLEAR CONSCIENCE | John Rasicci We cannot deceive ourselves either by simply proclaiming we are the righteousness of God in Christ while living in sin.

There is a difference in claiming to be the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21) and actually living righteously (Titus 2:12; also called the fruits of righteousness Philippians 1:11).

The former speaks of our spiritual position in Christ by the grace of God but the latter speaks of our practice, the obedience of our faith, our behavior, and our actual daily conduct.

Our position was by the work of Jesus; our practice is by our work.

God sees both our position in Christ and our practice (Hebrews 4:13). Calvary didn't blind God.

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:3 - I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. (ESV)

I also affirm the Didache here which shows that the upwards-call of the Christian absolutely involves making earthly sacrifices as we serve Jesus, and there are degrees of glory as we are conformed to Jesus' image:

Didache Chapter 6 - See that no one causes you to err from this way of the Teaching, since apart from God it teaches you. For if you are able to bear the entire yoke of the Lord, you will be perfect; but if you are not able to do this, do what you are able.

Now from John Piper:

I'm dealing with the issue of God's glory and our gladness. Can they really be one? And I'm doing that under the bigger banner of "How can I spread a passion for the supremacy of God?" because I think that phrase "passion for the supremacy of God" pulls together the two things:

1. "passion" signifies "*I'm joyful*" and
2. "supremacy of God" signifies "*he's being magnified*".

So my biggest longing in life is to be used by God to help people see him for who he really is in his magnificence, and then have emotions that are appropriate to that magnificence. Why do we watch the World Series? Why do we watch gymnastics when the Olympics rolls around? Why do we go to the Grand Canyon? Why do we go to the Alps? Why do we go to the ocean and look out over... Why do we want to get near bigness and beauty and magnificence and excellence? It's because that's what we were made for. We were not made for mirrors. So I want to be absolutely candid, **the Christian Life Is War** and I'm in the business of helping people know how to fight in the way that they're supposed to, namely for joy.

There's a text in **2 Corinthians 1:24**:

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 - I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:24 - Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. (ESV)

I was amazed when I saw that. Paul says "I'm a worker for your joy" as though **Joy requires apostolic work, and if it does for him it does for me.** And so yeah there are times in the ministerial life or the Christian Life when we're low. It seems like all the joy is gone we want to quit give up the ministry give up the faith, and at those moments we need to fight like heaven to hold on.

Sermon youtube.com: Sustaining Joy in Christ

I believe that the freedom we have in Christ is for serving Jesus, and we have a heavenly perspective:

Colossians 3:22-25 - Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

5.5.3 We are bought with the precious blood of Christ and we should be obedient to God

I Peter 1:17-19 - And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

Faith that from a good conscience with God produces Christ's love:

I Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

5.5.4 Eternal salvation goes to those who obey Him

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

If you keep Jesus' commandments then the Spirit of Truth will come to you, and help you, and be in you. If we obey Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us, even before He's inside us:

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will **keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,** whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

The above definitely indicates that we should try to keep Jesus Christ's commandments even before receiving the Holy Spirit.

We receive of God's Spirit. That is how we **know** we abide in Him:

I John 4:13 - By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (ESV)

5.5.5 Praying to Father God in the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name

youtube.com: Does it matter which Person of the Trinity we pray to? - John Piper {@DigitalCodex} @t

Pray in the name of Jesus, which I think means "on the basis of what Jesus has done to make our access to God possible, namely His blood and righteousness". So when I say in 'Jesus' name' at the end of a prayer I mean "because Jesus died for me and rose again and covered my sins and imparted and imputed righteousness to me, I have access to the father because of Him". That's what in Jesus name means.

5.5.6 Faith in Jesus Christ's name to be saved

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (ESV)

It's faith in Jesus' name that is powerful, and it's with **faith** in Jesus' name that we are saved.

We are granted repentance to life; being a slave to righteousness leading to sanctification and at its end, eternal life. We expect to receive salvation as we have faith in Jesus Christ:

Romans 3:21-25 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be **received by faith**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

AMEN!!

Something like this:

I Thessalonians 1:3 - remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Acts 3:2-9 - And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, Look at us. And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk! And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God,

Acts 3:16 - And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

Acts 4:7-10 - And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, By what power or by what name did you do this? Then Peter, filled with **the Holy Spirit**, said to them, Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Keep God's word:

John 17:6 - I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. (ESV)

Keeping God's word given through Jesus, having God's name revealed:

John 17:6 - I have revealed (G5319 phaneroō) Your name (G3686 onoma) to those You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. (engbsb2020eb)

G5319 phaneroō Definition: To make manifest, to reveal, to make known, to show openly. Meaning: I make clear (visible, manifest), make known. Word Origin: From the Greek word (phaneros), meaning "visible" or "manifest."

Be convinced and keep having and doing faith in Jesus Christ. John uses the verb for faith:

John 20:31 - but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: His Voice in Yours: How Christ Wins the World @time: 12 min 52 sec

Jeremiah 23:5-6 - Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: **The LORD is our righteousness.** (ESV)

5.6 By God's grace God has saved us and provided us with a means to be reconciled to Him through trusting faith in Him

God has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light:

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

Saving faith does come (originate) from hearing through the word of Christ:

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing through the word of Christ.** (ESV)

I believe that saving faith must arrive and settle in the heart, and as the heart is made clean, a person's outside changes:

Matthew 23:26 - You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. (ESV)

There are some doctrines that are so essential that to deny them is to not be a Christian:

I John 4:2 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, (ESV)

I John 2:22 - Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. (ESV)

II John 1:7 - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (ESV)

I confess (G3670 homologeó) that God was acting through Jesus Christ of Nazareth as He walked the earth in the flesh, around 2000 years ago, and that God is still working through us who are in Christ Jesus.

John 10:32 - Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"

I also think it's important to have an accurate Christology:

Luke 24:25-27 - And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (ESV)

While I believe that it is central to the gospel that Jesus was raised from the dead, the object of our faith should be Jesus Himself and we should trust Jesus to believe and obey Him - teachings included. We believe the Word of God: We believe Jesus and we believe in Jesus Himself, and we believe the Holy Scriptures which say Jesus was raised from the dead, and we should get a clearer picture of Jesus as we follow Him.

I Corinthians 15:17 - And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. (ESV)

Luke 24:44-48 - Then he said to them, These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. (ESV)

Let's not focus on minimums, but maximums:

Sermon youtube.com: How Much Error Can I Believe and Still Be Saved?

We must also accept that Jesus Christ, God's Only-Begotten Son was raised from the dead:

I Corinthians 15:14-17 - And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. (ESV)

Luke 24:24-27 - Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see. And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (ESV)

Romans 10:9 - because, if you confess (G3670 homologēsēs, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (ESV)

We should definitely confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus to others:

Luke 12:8-9 - And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. (ESV)

I believe that trusting Jesus and obedience in the heart towards Jesus is required. Obedience to Jesus is love.

I Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

5.7 Grace

blueletterbible.org: G5485 - charis - Strong's Greek Lexicon {kjv} ... of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his **holy influence upon souls**, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, **increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues**

While I agree God's grace comes as unmerited favour, I also believe that God's grace actively teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. So I believe that while we are in grace, God's in His grace leads us, teaches us, convicts us, chastises us etc. I believe that God's grace is more than just "unmerited favour", but that it is also transformative.

hymnary.org: Abide With Me | Hymnary.org 3 I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who like thyself my guide and strength can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me. (youtube.com: The MOST BEAUTIFUL HYMN TUNE EVER WRITTEN {@SalisburyOrganist})

Grace should help us to keep God's commandments, including the 10 commandments.

Endeavouring to keep God's commandments is not "falling from grace" or strictly "coming under the law". Rather, grace helps us to deny ungodliness. We can and should seek to keep the great commandments from the heart. We can seek to keep God's commandments and be under grace at the same time, and we **should** try to keep God's commandments, even the 10 commandments from the heart.

5.7.1 Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

5.7.2 By the blood of Jesus

The Blood of Jesus empowers us to do works that are pleasing to God.

We are purchased by Jesus' blood:

I Peter 1:18-19 - knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

God works in us to help us to practice righteousness:

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **equip you with everything good that you may do his will**, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Because sanctification is happening, because a person is trying to maintain a good conscience with God, a person born of God can't simply sin without violating their good conscience and sinning is going to have a real noticeable effect on them and on other people and sin leads to death so we are trying to purify ourselves and stop committing it:

I John 3:8-10 - Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.** (ESV)

5.7.3 We should not pervert grace into something which is disobedient to God

Jude 1:4 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (ESV)

5.7.4 God works in us by His transforming grace as we work

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good **that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ**, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and **his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.** (ESV)

5.7.5 Disciplined to look like a child of God, an analogy

We're allowed to call ourselves children if we believe on Jesus' name, even if we're not looking like a child of God (i.e. even if we're not perfected in holiness, and in love, and in obedience). But let's be real, someone who has just come to faith is an infant. Now if an infant in Christ starts calling themselves a child of God then they're going to be trained to maturity, so they really look and behave and think like children of God.

Christians who are keeping Christ's commandments agape love even people who are infants in Christ, people who have just been born of God:

I John 5:1-2 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

But we aim to be children of God without blemish:

Philippians 2:12-16 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

An analogy:

Let's say there is an 800m sprint that everyone has to be able to make within the "Beginner time" and call themselves "fit" in order to be able to take a trip to the international space station. Likewise, children of God need to be the good soil:

Mark 4:20 - But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold. (ESV)

Table taken from <https://marathonhandbook.com/average-time-to-run-800m/>:

Age Group	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Recreational	World Record
18-39	3:37	3:13		2:38	1:40
40+	3:54	3:28		2:51	1:48
45+	3:57	3:30		2:52	1:49
50+	4:16	3:48		3:06	1:58
55+	4:25	3:55		3:13	2:02
60+	4:38	4:07		3:22	2:08
65+	4:49	4:17		3:30	2:13
70+	5:04	4:30		3:41	2:20
75+	5:26	4:50		3:57	2:30
80+	5:49	5:11		4:14	2:41

Most people might just assume they can do it within "Beginner time" and so don't make an attempt at training for test of fitness required to go to space. To not make any attempt at obeying Jesus' commandments by faith would be like the second son who did not go out to the vineyard:

Matthew 21:28-31 - What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, Son, go and work in the vineyard today. And he answered, I will not, but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, I go, sir, but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, The first. Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. (ESV)

A person might question whether or not they are managing to keep Jesus' commandments "well enough". They might even tell God something like, "I'm not going to do it unless You do this for me first." But when testing happens, they end up actually doing what God wants them to do.

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Now let's say there is someone now ranting and raving about some cataclysmic event on the horizon threatening the earth but only those who can make "Beginner time" for their age bracket are allowed to depart on a rocket - now the situation becomes more serious. As children of God, we know we need to by faith obey Jesus, turning away from sin and loving our family in Christ, etc. and practice righteousness:

Acts 17:30-31 - The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (ESV)

If we start claiming that we are ourselves "fit", saying we can make "Beginner time", and we actually are not fit enough then people might start pointing that out saying, "You're not fit enough, etc. Do some working out at the gym to get fitter. Likewise, if we start calling ourselves children of God, then God will chastise us to get us into shape. He doesn't want us to be disobedient like the second son (in Matt 21:38-31), but He wants us to walk in His ways, not just make a claim to walk in His ways:

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And **if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds**, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:6 - For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

What does being in shape look like? It looks like practicing righteousness, putting a stop to sin and treasuring your family in Christ:

I John 3:7-10 - Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

Some people heed this advice and some people do not. And to connect with another passage, I want to be counted among the wise:

Matthew 25:7-12 - Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves. And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

Be doer of God's will:

Matthew 25:24-30 - He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him, You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

The penitent thief on the cross next to Jesus didn't have obligation to do more than he accomplished in repenting and putting his faith in Jesus:

Luke 12:48 - But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. (ESV)

The Apostle Paul was under massive obligation though:

I Corinthians 9:16 - For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! (ESV)

Luke 12:42-49 - And the Lord said, Who then is the **faithful and wise manager**, whom his master will set over his household, **to give them their portion of food at the proper time?** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, My master is delayed in coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! (ESV)

Everyone falls short and we are reliant on the mercy of God:

Romans 11:32 - For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. (ESV)

Luke 18:13-14 - But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

We are cleaned up so that we are obedient to Jesus, and God cleans us up so that we fulfill Christ's law (Christ's commandments):

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

We are not the justifiers of ourselves. We seek God's commendation, his justification, and we seek it by our obedient faith in Jesus:

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

III John 1:11-12 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. (ESV)

Galatians 5:5-7 - For through the Spirit, by faith, **we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness**. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? (ESV)

We're obligated to obey Jesus:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)

We still need to submit to God's righteousness. We were all in disobedience so we all need mercy from God. We all need Jesus' blood to be justified. We're not trying to establish our own righteousness outside of Christ. We all need to be washed by the Holy Spirit:

Romans 10:3 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. (ESV)

John 13:7-8 - Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Titus 3:3-7 - For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

No-one in Christ is condemned. No-one who is walking by faith in Jesus obeying Jesus as Lord and Master is condemned:

Romans 8:1-6 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (ESV)

No-one who is trusting in Jesus is condemned:

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

No servant of Jesus is condemned. Servants of God may fall short, but will not be condemned. We need to have been "converted" to serve God through serving Jesus:

I Corinthians 3:15 - If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (ESV)

John 13:16 - Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

Psalms 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

5.8 Receiving Jesus

5.8.1 Receiving Jesus may be as easy as receiving the one who He sends, or receiving a child in His name

John 13:20 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

Mark 9:37 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.

A person may need to ask and seek to receive Jesus:

Luke 11:10 - For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

5.8.2 Receive Jesus and His words, and then put to death the deeds of the body

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

Romans 8:13-25 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

5.8.3 God through His mercy saves us. We should respond well

Christ died for us, so through His mercy alone, he purchased us.

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:4 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (ESV)

I John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

5.8.4 Those who have a heart of faith towards Him (and anyone who He wills) may receive forgiveness of sins through his name

It's impossible for man to save himself:

Matthew 19:25-26 - When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (ESV)

Anyone God wills He may forgive and make clean:

Matthew 8:1-3 - When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, **Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.** And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, **I will; be clean.** **And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.** (ESV)

Matthew 9:5-8 - For which is easier, to say, **Your sins are forgiven**, or to say, **Rise and walk?** But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins — he then said to the paralytic—Rise, pick up your bed and go home. And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. (ESV)

We certainly must trust in the name of the Only-Begotten Son of God if we want to be born of God:

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, **who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God, who were **born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God**. (ESV)

An heart of faith looks like:

- Wanting to do God's will
 - Obedience and repentance from sin: even if it just means wanting to turn from sin
 - because God makes the new heart to enable the person to obey
- Wanting to follow Jesus
- Accepting Jesus Christ as one's Lord
- Accepting through faith the atonement for sin through Jesus Christ
- Turning away from sin

Return to obedience to God through obedience to Jesus. Turn from sin:

Joel 2:12-13 - Yet even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. (ESV)

God provides the new heart, and God works through us:

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

So to be saved a person must have an obedient heart, prepared for the good works which are prepared for us to walk in:

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For **by grace you have been saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

The tax collector here has an obedient heart (yielding to Jesus), but the Pharisee in the story has a self-righteous heart:

Luke 18:9-14 - He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

It's those that believe in him (trust Him, receive Him, expect to receive Him, have an obedient heart towards Him) that receive forgiveness of sins through his name:

Acts 10:41-44 - not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. While Peter was still saying these things, **the Holy Spirit** fell on all who heard the word. (ESV)

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

We must honour Jesus Christ in our bodies and in our lives - fruitful labour, so that we can be confident with John 5:24. AMEN!! We must be slaves of righteousness, leading to sanctification, which at its end is eternal life:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes (G4100 *pisteuo*) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

I believe John 5:24 is a true statement and that it should not be read outside of the words Jesus said directly before it (Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him).

We do not nullify the rest of what Jesus has commanded of and asked of us. If Jesus is your judge, then I think it's wise to take on board the rest of what Jesus has said:

Philippians 1:15-22 - Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

Paul and the other faithful Apostles were exhibited as last of all, like men sentenced to death for following Jesus:

I Corinthians 4:9-13 - For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things. (ESV)

God still makes apostles and prophetic people:

Ephesians 4:11-16 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for **building up the body of Christ**, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in

deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (ESV)

Paul was an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's command:

I Timothy 1:1-2 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

I myself, after being born-again, have had visions of planting churches in the South Pacific. However, to make this more complicated, I've also been going through daily testing and refinement on doctrine, etc. as the Holy Spirit has been teaching me and sanctifying me with the Word.

An apostle, in its literal sense, is an emissary. The word is derived from Ancient Greek παππός, literally "one who is sent off", itself derived from the verb πέμπειν, "to send off".

I've also had a vision of a star rising in a purple sky (like a morning sunrise), and many other such prophetic visions - anyway, my point is the 'prophetic' is a reality, and we believe in a living God, and we believe in the Holy Spirit:

II Peter 1:19 - And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, (ESV)

I believe that cessationists are in error. Modern-day apostles, I believe, like branches on a tree, still branch from the original Apostles, and should preach the same Jesus, and the same gospel, in the same Spirit, and any apostle must have Jesus as their cornerstone:

Matthew 7:14-20 - For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 θλιβό - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (ESV)

youtube.com: An Apostle by Command: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, Part 1 @time: 8 min 0 sec Paul claims extraordinary authority. Here's what he says in 1 Corinthians 14. If anyone thinks that he's a prophet or spiritual (in other words, if somebody claims to be speaking for God or in the spirit) he should acknowledge that the things that I as apostle am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he's not recognized. In other words, Paul claims that his authority trumps vaunted claims to prophecy or spirituality. If you don't recognize the authority of the Apostle, you're not recognized.

Ephesians 2:19-20 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (ESV)

We have the opportunity to receive correction from God and make the tree good and its fruit good:

Matthew 12:33-35 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. (ESV)

I believe Jesus still appoints apostles, and I'm prophetic myself so I have no doubts regarding this. I personally still see all things being placed into subjection under Christ and have no reason to think that Jesus has stopped appointing apostles and prophets as God is growing and guiding His church:

Ephesians 2:20-22 - built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (ESV)

I think a good reason Jesus would still be doing this is for sake of the unity of the church, and demonstration of the Spirit and power of God. We need the prophetic in the church:

1 Corinthians 2:4,5 - and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (ESV)

Proverbs 29:18 - Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law. (ESV)

youtube.com: A stern warning to spiritually equip yourself for this end time. {@TorchofChristMinistries} From our perspective it may look like things are **still being brought into subjection to Him**. It still looks that way to me:

Ephesians 1:22 - And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

Hebrews 2:5-8 - Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting **everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control**. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

Anyway, I am very **confident** that God still makes apostles and I **know** the 'prophetic' is a reality. God certainly still appoints people with spiritual gifts and is still working on the earth through people in the power of the Holy Spirit. Cessationists are quite simply incorrect.

However apostolic and prophetic people have the truth revealed to them. These roles are service roles though for helping the body of Christ grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, so there's no bragging, just serving one another, as we have different roles in the body of Christ:

Ephesians 3:5 - which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. (ESV)

I Corinthians 2:4 - and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, (ESV)

I'll let the Didache speak for itself here But not every one who speaks in the Spirit is a prophet but only if he holds the ways of the Lord. Therefore from their ways shall the false prophet and the prophet be known. And every prophet who orders a meal in the Spirit does not eat it, unless he is indeed a false prophet. And every prophet who teaches the truth, but does not do what he teaches, is a false prophet. And every prophet, proved true, working unto the mystery of the Church in the world, yet not teaching others to do what he himself does, shall not be judged among you, for with God he has his judgment for so did also the ancient prophets. But whoever says in the Spirit, Give me money, or something else, you shall not listen to him. But if he tells you to give for others' sake who are in need, let no one judge him.

Also, this seems relevant:

Matthew 11:11 - Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (ESV)

But we should listen to sound teaching first and always test the spirits:

II Timothy 4:1-4 - I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (ESV)

Daniel 2:28 - but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: (ESV)

God is loving and altogether gracious:

Exodus 34:5-8 - The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation. And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

Ezra 9:13 - And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserved and have given us such a remnant as this, (ESV)

Having faith in God involves following Jesus:

Hebrews 10:32-39 - But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Luke 6:30 - Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. (ESV)

I agree whole heartedly with this guy:

- Are All Christians Disciples? (Lordship Salvation)

I believe that generally-speaking, there is no difference between being a disciple of Jesus and a Christian because those who have faith in Jesus will do works He does. Some disciples of Jesus turned away. Some believers in Jesus became His disciples:

Acts 11:21 - And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. (ESV)

We're clearly instructed to be disciples:

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to **observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

John 13:35 - By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

Luke 14:33 - So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

Luke 14:27 - Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

In fact I think we should be both a believer and a disciple to be sanctified by the truth and regarded by God as on of His saints:

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from **the Lord who is the Spirit**. (ESV)

Jesus said to these believers that if they abide in His word (and I believe that means keep His word, even in obedience), they are His disciples - so a person can be a believer before they are a disciple. But we're supposed to make this transition:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

I believe that Simon the magician after initially believing the gospel and being baptised needed to continue in obedience to God, continue trusting in Jesus, turn away from wickedness, purify his heart, draw near to God and receive Holy Spirit and be sanctified. We're instructed to "draw near to God through Jesus Christ" to be saved:

James 4:8 - **Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

Hebrews 7:23-28 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

I am increasingly of the opinion that there is a subtle difference between simply 'believer' and 'saint' who is also a believer. Saints both believe and keep the God's commandments. Believing disciples of Jesus may become saints.

II Thessalonians 1:9-12 - They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be **marveled at among all who have believed**, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may **fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

There is a transformation in the heart of a born-again Christian that involves changing allegiance towards Jesus Christ, resulting in the will to obey Jesus, and God gives us the spirit to help us to obey Him.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

Romans 6:18-20 - and, having been set free from sin, have become **slaves of righteousness**. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (ESV)

Quote by Joe Rigney We receive salvation as a gift. But we do work out our own salvation, and we do so because God is at work within us to will and to work for his good pleasure. We are working out what God is working in. And he is working at the level of our will — our desires, our affections, our choices. Fundamental to salvation is heart change, the transformation of our wills by God so that we will and work for his good pleasure.

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

5.9 I believe that a loving, trusting (believing and obedient) heart for Jesus Christ is essential for permanent abiding in Him

After believing in Him we must go ahead in the teaching of Christ:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Romans 6:17-19 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become **slaves of righteousness**. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. (ESV)

Jesus' disciples (who had made Jesus their Lord) heard his words and were developing their belief for a while:

John 16:29-31 - His disciples said, Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God. Jesus answered them, Do you now believe? (ESV)

If a person truly believes Jesus is who He says He is then they have eternal life and they will go on **at some point** to do the works Jesus did:

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

Like the Apostle Peter, they may be **quick** to belief, and stumble their way to obedience:

Matthew 16:15-18 - He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

Thomas had extreme love towards Jesus and obedience to following Jesus:

John 11:8 - The disciples said to him, Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again? (ESV)

John 11:16 - So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him. (ESV)

Harkening, listening and obeying seems to be what we're called to do:

Deuteronomy 28:1 - "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. (NASB)

Interlinear of the initial part of **Deuteronomy 28:1**:

1	1961		518	
2	wə·hā·yāh,		'im-	
3				
4	Now it shall come to pass	if		
5	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms	Conj		
6				
7	8085 [e]	8085 [e]	6963 [e]	3068 [e]
8	šā·mō·w·a'	tiš·ma'	bə·qō·wl	Yah·weh
9				
10	diligently	you obey	the voice	of Yahweh
11	V-Qal-InfAbs	V-Qal-Imperf-2ms	Prep-b N-msc	N-proper-ms

6963. qol sound, voice

8085. shama' to hear

tiš · ma' heed/hearken/listen/obey/understand

šā · mō · w · a' diligently/truly/carefully/will indeed

If a person **continues to obey** Jesus they will eventually, like Thomas, arrive at the Truth and believe Jesus is who He says He is.

John 20:27-31 - Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

Here is another example where obeying Jesus led to belief:

John 21:4-7 - Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, Children, do you have any fish? They answered him, No. He said to them, **Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.** So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, It is the Lord! When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. (ESV)

And another example where obedience to Jesus leads to belief:

Luke 5:4-8 - And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.** And Simon answered, Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets. And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord. (ESV)

[youtube.com: Devotions with DeMarcus - Luke 5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeMarcusL5)

Obeying Jesus and witnessing His glory should bring us to faith in Him. Obeying Jesus should lead us to seeing His glory and an understanding:

Mark 8:17-21 - And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up? They said to him, Twelve. And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up? And they said to him, Seven. And he said to them, Do you not yet understand? (ESV)

Learning to trust in Jesus, learning to trust Jesus, as we obey Him and witness His glory, and come to trust in Him, to believe in Him. Obedience to Jesus leads to witnessing His glory which inspires our faith:

John 2:7-11 - Jesus said to the servants, Fill the jars with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast. So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now. **This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples (G3101 mathetes) believed (G4100 pisteuo) in him.** (ESV)

Both belief and obedience lead to a knowledge of the Truth, and I believe we **must** essentially arrive at belief and understanding in the heart and ultimately an actual **knowledge**:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuo, pepisteukotas) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

I John 4:16 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

And I believe too that we must arrive at willing to do the will of God:

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

Jesus loved us before we loved Him:

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

If someone obeys Jesus they should arrive at belief in Jesus and who He is and what He has accomplished; they should accept Him:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

If a person believes on Jesus and what He has accomplished they should arrive at obedience, and if they want to be counted as a friend of Jesus, they certainly they **must** obey Jesus' commandments:

John 15:10-14 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I think faith in Jesus grows as both of these qualities increase, and leads to actual knowledge of Christ:

- Whoever believes in Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God, is not condemned.
- Otherwise, those who don't believe that fully and do not obey the gospel, I think fall into condemnation or tribulation.
- Those who obey in part yet do not believe the gospel, I think fall into condemnation or tribulation.

Nevertheless, if someone believes on Him they have begun to obey Him, and so I believe they are in the Lord while they **trust in His name, Jesus Christ (Messiah) the Son of God, to be saved**, as the following applies:

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

We still have life in Jesus Christ's name while we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God:

John 20:31 - but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

That's confirmed here by saying that these people are not 'spiritual' but they are still in Christ:

I Corinthians 3:1 - But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. (ESV)

And as we know, no-one in Christ is condemned:

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

So if a person **is still believing/trusting** (verb) in Him - I don't think they fall into condemnation, no matter their other failures.

You must walk in the truth, including agape (treasuring) loving your family in Christ or you are not in the light, and the blood of Jesus doesn't "continue" cleansing you.

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Actually, at some stage I think we have to just rest in the knowledge that it's all about what He did, as far as being saved goes, not what we've done for Him. But that does not mean that resisting sin and practicing our righteousness is contrary to receiving saving grace. Salvation is a process inclusive of sanctification. God wants us to no longer desire evil, but to desire Him. God wants us to come to a love of the truth and to desire what is good and not what is evil:

I Corinthians 10:6-12 - Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:11-19 - As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

youtube.com: Salvation is NOT Momentary {@Onesoul1.2} **Nahum 3:5** - Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame. (ESV)

We see that the Lord gives grace to those who repent, but they didn't stay walking in the way of repentance. They didn't change their direction and accept that the Lord was who he says he was. They just saw they just saw that they were going to be destroyed and that all that they loved was going to be taken away from them.

Now, if we're going to "2025 this", how often do those who claim to profess Christ cling on to this idea of taking care of the body, ... we get preached not so much a gospel of Christ and not so much The gospel of God is who he says he is, but rather we get preached an opportunity to save ourselves from suffering. Talking about salvation, do we seek salvation from sin and living incorrectly or do we just seek salvation from personal suffering? And that's what I want to talk about. That's my Bible thought for the day. Are we saved just from hell or are we saved from a life living anti-god? Are we antichrists in that we accept a truth of God, this freedom, this life eternal [but] we don't focus on what it's about. It's serving the Lord. Jonah preached to Nineveh and Nineveh believed that God was going to destroy them. And because they didn't want to be destroyed, they repented. And it would seem that they lived justly for a time, a season, and then the whoredom came back where they went..

Nahum 3:4 - Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts. (KJV)

How much do we cling to the Lord in one season, but then when something that comes up that we want to idolize, that we want to put before him, when that comes up, do we turn away from the Lord? Do we not trust him? Do we not seek him? Do we not obey?

This is that false gospel that we can pray a prayer of salvation and then not witness in ourselves a life changed. Instead, we just accept the gift of God without the works of God.

It it says in several parts in the Bible, in fact, II Peter 3:14, we'll start there:

II Peter 3:14 - Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (KJV)

We're not supposed to just accept it as a one-time thing, but a walking faith. It isn't something we believe in a moment or in a season, but it's something that we carry through for throughout our entire lives.

Jesus says, "You will know them by their fruits." Well, if we claim to have prayed a prayer of salvation, if we claim to accept Christ as Lord, are we doing the things that he says to do? Are we making him Lord?

Amen brother. I think of it like the Israelites leaving Egypt to go to the promised land (rest). During this salvation we believe, trust, obey God, forsake idols. Like leaving Egypt to go out and worship God, we also leave the Egypt of slavery to sin. By trusting and obeying Christ, we go out to worship God and to our promised land of rest where in Him we are keeping Christ's commandments and they're not burdensome (abiding in His love). As we see to do this, and walk as Jesus walked, keeping Jesus' commandments, we also know that Father God loved us first, Father God demonstrating His love for us in sending Jesus Christ to be propitiation for our sins. Jesus says the one who keeps his commandments is the one who loves Him. Paul says he decided to know nothing except Christ AND Him crucified. John says we have confidence we have come to know Him when we are keeping His commandments. Paul says if anyone loves God then he is known by God. We want to be known by Jesus, not turned away by Him. So having arrived in the promised-land, have become very trusting and obedient to Christ (fit, and keeping His commandments is not burdensome). So the salvation isn't 'dilutedly' momentary but in a sense you can say that we are saved when God shows up to lead us out of Egypt, but salvation continues. God saves us from the inside-out to make the tree good, so faith in Jesus purifies our heart, and obedience to a sincere love of our family in Christ, purifies our souls. Basically, I consider salvation to be inclusive of our sanctification.

Hebrews says it better than I can. So a lot of people's idea of salvation is it happens in an instant. Then you're eternally saved, and nothing you can do to "add to it" or to "have assurance". Sanctification is normally still regarded as a 'lifelong' process of "getting cleaned up" to look like a child of God "practicing righteousness, loving family in Christ and no longer making a practice of sinning". But I don't see two separate things there. Rather I think salvation is the sanctification. But it happens from the inside-out.

This sanctification is the salvation: We are sanctified (perfected in love and holiness) while having faith in the Truth. We are saved through sanctification and faith. This sanctification is the sanctification of the heart and of the soul:

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

Justified by faith in Jesus. Saved through sanctification while holding faith in Jesus. This justification by faith is required for us to continue holding on to sanctification:

I Corinthians 6:11* - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

Evil things coming from the heart of man defile the man. So with good thoughts proceeding from a pure heart, that would purify the man? And this purification I would call "soul purification", the soul being the rest of the spirit-man, I think. So there's the heart, where our faith, trust, love and obedience to God are, and where the word is sown. And the is the soul / the rest of the soul, and God wants all of it to be purified. Not just the heart, but the soul.

To be saved involves being cleaned up by the process of sanctification, and we are conformed to the image of Christ from one degree of glory to the next. I realise that God is the author and finisher of our faith, and it's all grace, and there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood, and by faith in Jesus' blood we may be delivered from sin, healed to serve God.

Romans 3:25 - Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (KJV)

Hebrews 9:13-14 - For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (KJV)

We must continue in the faith:

Colossians 1:21-23 - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (ESV)

Perhaps it could be said like this: Our hearts might be considered 'saved' when we received the word but then there is Jesus' parable about how the devil takes away the word so they can't believe and be saved, so we must persevere in faith. The rest of our soul is saved as that word grows in good soil, as we trust in, trust and obey Jesus. So the salvation includes the salvation of our souls.

I'm trying to understand and be corrected by the Word.

But it is certainly possible during this life to arrive at the point where you can say you no longer practice those sinful things which would have lead to death:

I Corinthians 6:9-12 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. (ESV)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Also, everyone who continues on hoping in Him purifies themselves as He is pure. It's important to purify ourselves, as we hope in Him. At the end of sanctification is eternal life:

I John 3:1-3 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** (ESV)

There is something miraculous about having seen God. Upon seeing Him, we must have come to the point where we have stoppen sinning and where we agape-love our family in Christ:

III John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

No-one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him:

I John 3:6 - No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:34 - Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (ESV)

If we don't love our family in Christ then we have not even seen Jesus:

III John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

So it is the will of Father God that those who have seen Jesus Christ, Son of God, and have faith in Him should have eternal life and Jesus will raise them on the last day, and having seen Him means that we would be loving our family in Christ and put a stop to committing sin:

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

John 20:27-29 - Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. (ESV)

I John 4:20-21 - If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

God is the justifier, and God is the one who decides who is **in Christ**.

I Corinthians 1:30 - But by **His doing** you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, (NASB)

Love (obedience) and belief:

John 16:27-28 - for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

It's possible to follow Jesus' voice even before having come to perfect knowledge and obedience, but Jesus **knows** His sheep. We must hear Jesus' voice, obey Him, become a slave to righteousness, following His commandments and at its end, Jesus gives us eternal life:

John 10:26-29 - but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (ESV)

Trust in God (Trusting in God involves trusting God and trusting God enough to do what He says):

- We should trust in God.
- We should have faith in God.

- We should have faith in Jesus.
- God justifies the one who puts their faith in Jesus, who trusts in Jesus.

Putting faith in Jesus means trusting in Jesus and trusting.

We don't love the Christmas presents more than our parents. Rather, we simply love our parents and they provide the Christmas presents. Likewise, we trust in Jesus and we believe that God justifies the one who trusts in Jesus.

The true believers follow Jesus. They are Jesus' sheep, and they keep His teachings and trust in Him (enough to obey Him penitently):

- trust Jesus
 - youtube.com: I trust in God !
 - even for their justification
- hear Jesus' voice
 - youtube.com: How to Hear God's Voice & Why You're Not Hearing Him ?
 - desiringgod.org: The Morning I Heard the Voice of God | Desiring God
- love Him
- follow Him (they're being obedient)
- Jesus knows them

John 8:47 - Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

I believe that what this says is that at the point Jesus knows you listen to His voice and obey His voice, He counts you as one of His sheep and He will not let you go.

The righteousness that comes through having faith in Jesus Christ - faith (not mere belief) is required to have the righteousness - to be found in Jesus:

Philippians 3:9 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which **comes through faith in Christ**, the righteousness from God that **depends on** faith— (ESV)

The words Jesus Christ spoke were **altogether** a commandment of eternal life which Father God had given Jesus to speak:

John 12:49-50 - For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

Believing:

- youtube.com: His Voice in Yours: How Christ Wins the World

Our **heart** must be close to Jesus:

Matthew 15:8 - This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; (ESV)

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (ESV)

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
(ESV)

If we trust God, we trust in Him. If we trust in Him, we trust Him. We trust Jesus' words. We trust Jehovah's words. Trusting *in* is not naturally separate from trusting. For the one **trusting** (it says trusting, not trusted), out of their belly will flow living water:

John 7:38 - The [one] **believing** (4100. *pisteuó*) **in Me** as has said the Scripture Rivers out of the belly of him will flow of water living (Interlinear)

Faith is both believing and obedient, even faith in the heart:

Verse Ref	Believe (Jesus is their Saviour)	Obey (Jesus is their Lord)
Matthew 11:29	learn from me	take my yoke upon you
John 12:36	believe in the light, that you may become sons of light	
John 8:12		I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness
John 3:36	Whoever believes (G4100 <i>pisteuōn</i> - <i>is believing (verb)</i>) in the Son has eternal life	whoever does not obey (544. <i>apei-theō</i>) the Son shall not see life
Romans 10:9	believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead	confess (G3670 <i>homologeō</i>) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
John 10:26-27	but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock	My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
I John 3:23	this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ	and love one another, just as he has commanded us
I John 4:10	he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins	
II John 1:6		this is love, that we walk according to his commandments
John 6:35	whoever believes (4100. <i>pisteuó</i>) in me shall never thirst	<u>whoever comes to me shall not hunger</u>
John 4:10	would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.	
John 4:34		My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.
John 20:31	by believing you may have life in his name.	
Romans 6:22		you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God
John 5:24	whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life	
Hebrews 5:9		eternal salvation to <u>all who obey him,</u>

5.9.1 The Holy Spirit is the living water

We trust Jesus (Yeshua), so we accept and treasure His words, so we trust in Him and obey Him out of trust and He is our strength, and song and Yahweh becomes our salvation. In trusting Jesus (Yeshua) we trust Jehovah (Yahweh) who has sent Jesus (Yeshua). It's Jesus Christ who saves us. It's Yahweh who saves us:

Isaiah 12:1-3 - You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD (3068. Yhvh), for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust (982. batach), and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD (3068. Yhvh) is my strength (5797. oz) and my song (2176. zimrath), and he has become my salvation (**3444. yeshuah**). With joy (8342. sason) you will draw water (4325. mayim) from the wells of salvation. (ESV)

John 7:37-39 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts (1372. dipsaó), let him come to me and drink (4095. pinó). Whoever believes (4100. pisteuó) in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)

If we trust God, we trust in Him. If we trust in Him, we trust Him. We trust Jesus' words. We trust Jehovah's words. Trusting *in* is not naturally separate from trusting. For the one **trusting** (it says trusting, not trusted), out of their belly will flow living water:

John 7:38 - The [one] believing (4100. pisteuó) in Me as has said the Scripture Rivers out of the belly of him will flow of water living (Interlinear)

1372. dipsaó Definition: to thirst. Usage: I thirst for, desire earnestly.

I desire You, Lord Jesus Christ! Please, God, let me always believe in You, trusting in You! Thank You God for Your mercy!

Revelation of John 22:17 - The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let the one who hears say, Come. And let the one who is **thirsty** come; let the one who desires take the **water of life without price** (1432. dórean). (ESV)

1432. dórean Definition: as a gift, to no purpose. Usage: as a free gift, without payment, freely. Cognate: 1432 doreán(the adverbial form of 1431/dórea) – something freely done (as gratis), i.e. without "cause"; unearned (undeserved); freely given (without cost) hence not done out of mere obligation or compulsion. See 1431 (dórea).

If you're thirsty for Jesus then trust in Jesus! Jesus is always there to satisfy that desire for Him. If you're thirsty, put your trust in Jesus. Keep trusting Jesus, trusting in Him, treasuring and trusting His words, trusting in God and you'll never be thirsty again.

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. (ESV)

Luke 8:6 - And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no **moisture**. (ESV)

Luke 8:12 - The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not **believe and be saved**. (ESV)

Romans 3:24 - and are justified by his grace as a gift (1432. dórean), through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

Isaiah 44:2-4 - Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. (ESV)

Isaiah 58:9-11 - Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, Here I am. If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. (ESV)

John 7:38 - The [one] believing (4100. *pisteuó*) in Me as has said the Scripture Rivers out of the belly of him will flow of water living (Interlinear)

1	3588	4100	1519	1473	2531	2036	3588	1124	4215
2	ho	pisteuōn	eis	eme	kathōs	eipen	hē	graphē	Potamoi
3	,						:	Π	
4	The	[one]	believing	in	Me	as	has said	the	Scripture Rivers
5	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	PPro-A1S	Adv	V-AIA-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	N-NMP
6									
7	1537	3588	2836	846	4482	5204	2198		
8	ek	tēs	koiliās	autou	rheusousin	hydatos	zōntos		
9					.				
10	out	of	the	belly	of him	will flow	of water	living	
11	Prep	Art-GFS	N-GFS	PPro-GM3S	V-FIA-3P	N-GNS	V-PPA-GNS		

5.9.2 Trusting belief (through grace) leads to continued obedience, which leads to knowledge of the Truth

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

Seeking God in truth and not seeking glory from one another is a good place to start in coming to believe:

John 5:44 - How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

Willing to actually do the will of God, you'll receive revelation:

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

In seeking God, and coming to Jesus, we must believe that God exists and that in seeking Him, God rewards them:

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

We come to Jesus by faith and not by sight:

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(ESV)

II Corinthians 5:7 - for we walk by faith, not by sight. (ESV)

We must come to Jesus for eternal life:

John 5:39-40 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. (ESV)

We come to Jesus by faith obeying Him from the heart:

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Matthew 14:28-29 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. (ESV)

Jesus is the Rock:

I Corinthians 10:4 - and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ.** (ESV)

Belief is important (and is an initial act of obedience):

Matthew 16:15-18 - He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church,** and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

Obedience is important:

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

We believe the Lord Jesus is who He is, the Christ, the Son of the living God, and Jesus builds the house as we obey Him.

Psalms 127:1 - Unless the **Lord builds the house**, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

I John 4:10-16 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So **we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.** God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

It means loving Jesus which involves obeying Jesus including His commandment to trust Him and His other commandments. Jesus is preparing the place for us. Like a bridegroom for their bride, Jesus is building an extension: **John 14:1-7** - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to **prepare a place for you?** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going. Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. (ESV)

<https://israelmyglory.org/article/coming-for-his-bride/> A local onlooker told us both families had arranged the marriage and that the couple had an unnecessarily long, drawn-out betrothal. According to ancient Jewish marriage custom, the man uses the betrothal period to prepare a home for his bride and himself in his father's house. The bystander told us the lazy bridegroom had needlessly delayed the marriage by procrastinating his building of an extension to his parents' house.

5.9.3 As we come to Jesus, we are conformed to His image

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (ESV)

5.9.4 Peter was quick to belief, and his belief led to obedience

Matthew 16:15-18 - He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**. And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

Peter's obedience wasn't perfect after that, but His belief did lead to doing works that Jesus Himself did. Peter's belief and obedience worked together for a miracle but He wavered:

Matthew 14:28-33 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, Lord, save me. Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, Truly you are the Son of God. (ESV)

5.9.5 Thomas was following Jesus around for a long time and was slow to belief, but arrived

His obedience eventually led to belief. This is in line with the gospel.

John 20:27-31 - Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

Then obeying Jesus and believing His words leads to Jesus:

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

5.9.6 Believing Jesus

The drink is to believe (and agape love) and trust in Jesus Christ, including trusting and treasuring that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, who has come into the world, and drinking is receive the Holy Spirit:

John 4:10-56 - Jesus answered her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. Jesus said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.** (ESV)

The Holy Spirit is the living water:

John 7:37-39 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **Whoever believes in me**, as the Scripture has said, **Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.** Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)

This belief is a free gift which has to be received in faith (you have to believe it):

John 7:37-38 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (ESV)

God wants to bring people to the obedience of faith. We have to hear Jesus' word and believe God who sent Him - we have to believe what God has told Jesus to tell us:

Luke 9:35 - And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him! (ESV)

Listening to Jesus, we are already obeying the will of God, who commanded us to listen to Him:

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (ESV)

Trusting in Jesus, trusting Jesus, trusting in God, we are becoming obedient to Jesus. Faith in Jesus and obedience to God and faith in God and obedience to Jesus are two sides of the same coin:

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

Holy Spirit goes to those who obey Him and/or have faith in Him:

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

Trusting Jesus' words we do not come into judgement, but change direction, and instead our destiny is life eternal. We do not come into judgement. Jesus is the judge of that:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word (**191. akouó**) and believes (**4100. pisteuó**) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed (**3327. metabain**) from death to life. (ESV)

I think John 5:24 reads that the one who is trusting the words spoken through Jesus, trusting God, trusting Jesus is holds/posesses eternal life and has passed/is passing/passes from death into life.

2064. erchomai to come, go

3327. metabain to pass over, withdraw, depart

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (KJV)

Therefore, I believe that believing Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, who has come into the world, is God's gift to us and it is a very easy to receive (low barrier to entry) act of obedience to Him:

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith** — (ESV)

Obedience should grow. A change should have taken place in the person's life:

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

The Holy Spirit leads us:

Romans 8:14-17 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

We must have believing, obedient faith in God regarding Jesus Christ His Son as Abraham had faith in God:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

The righteousness of faith:

Verse Ref	Believing God as Abraham believed God	Walking obediently in the footsteps of faith of our father Abraham
Genesis 15:6	And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness	
Genesis 22:17-18	Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness	because you have obeyed my voice
Galatians 3:6	Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness	
James 2:21-23	Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness	he offered up his son Isaac on the altar
Genesis 26:4-5		because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws

Abraham had righteousness attributed to him when he believed God, while he had an obedient and faithful heart towards God:

Genesis 15:5-6 - And he brought him outside and said, Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. Then he said to him, So shall your offspring be. And he believed (539. aman) the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

The blessing was assured to him by God because of obedience (the obedient works of faith brought him assurance for God's blessing):

Genesis 22:17-18 - I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.

[oneplace.com why-the-believer-doubts-part-1-1-1172653.html](http://oneplace.com/why-the-believer-doubts-part-1-1-1172653.html): Why the Believer Doubts, Part 1 {#1} - I

John MacArthur - "Assurance is not necessarily always going to be the believer's experience. Assurance is a gift to an obedient believer, and when there is disobedience in your life as a believer, or when there is sin in your life, or when you have sort of loosened up your intimacy and relationship with the LORD, doubt will begin to grow."

Therefore, we should believe with an obedient heart, and obey to receive God's assurance.

I believe that every one of Jesus' sheep have a believing, obedient heart, and Jesus knows who they are and no-one will be able to snatch them from Jesus' hand.

No man has the power to take the salvation of Jesus Christ away from another. No Pope has the power to take the salvation of Jesus Christ away from another, even by 'excommunication'. Amen.

John 10:28-30 - I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one. (ESV)

John 6:37-39 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. (ESV)

Galatians 1:10 - For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. (ESV)

Romans 14:22 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. (ESV)

I personally believe that it's God's role to justify, not ours, and if we want personal assurance that we are saved, we must seek and follow Jesus, and arrive at the door.

Abraham was obedient the entire time, even when God counted Abraham's belief as righteousness. We should, likewise be obedient when we believe. Abraham was justified when He believed with an obedient heart but faith was completed by the works of faith and Abraham was given assurance of the blessing:

James 2:21-23 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works**; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God. (ESV)

Where previously I said "I'm going out on a limb when I say that without an obedient heart the so-called belief doesn't qualify as belief:", my best interpretation of this now is that, believing in Jesus Christ, a person has obeyed Jesus and *currently* holds eternal life at that point or in their future, which is to know Jesus and Father God, but Jesus is the one to justify that person when He looks at the heart. We must trust **Him Himself**:

Romans 4:5-8 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts him** who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.

This trust of Jesus should mean a person is believing in the heart to Jesus, and to a greater or lesser degree, obedient to Him. If they don't continue in accepting Jesus' words/commandments they may not "see life" and the wrath of God may remain on that person - so we must actually repent from sin (confess sin as sin, attempt to stop obeying sin) and seek to know Jesus by being taught by Him as we follow His commandments:

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

This faith/trust/belief towards Jesus listens to Jesus' voice. So if a person is rejecting Jesus' teachings then they need to repent and trust Jesus' words. If the belief is true then we'll continue believing Jesus with all the other things He said:

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. **Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.** (ESV)

We need unity in faith and **truth** and love. We are to be taught by Jesus from the gospels. We are supposed to learn Jesus, being taught about Him, *and* taught in Him, to put off the old serve which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. The Truth is in Jesus, the correct Jesus:

Ephesians 4:11-25 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)

We are under grace now. We're not slaves to the Mosaic Law:

Romans 6:14-15 - For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! (ESV)

But we are obedient slaves now to righteousness, slaves of God, as slaves of Christ:

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient **from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We need to obey Jesus in order to be in relationship with Him, even to live a godly life which has its benefits, and without being **persuaded by Jesus** (trusting Jesus' voice), the wrath of God remains:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheō*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

That word *apeitheō*, means to be persuaded by (with connotations of obedience). Therefore, it really means to fully hearken to Jesus, accepting Jesus' words, believing Him, trusting Him, accepting Him, including accepting His teachings, and believing His teachings.

I really believe we should both believe and obey Jesus, but I don't want to condemn people when I am not the judge, and nor can I see the person's heart.

We need to obey Jesus to see the life. That obedience isn't "working" but it is "performing/carrying out" but our justification isn't contingent on "working":

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

On the other hand, if we obey Jesus we will never see death:

John 8:51 - Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone **keeps my word**, he will never see death. (ESV)

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 10:13 - and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? (ESV)

It's definitely about belief in in the heart:

Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. (ESV)

Jeremiah 17:10 - I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds. (ESV)

Acts 28:27 - For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And **understand with their heart** and **return**, And I would heal them.”

Belief is in the heart and God looks at our hearts:

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

John 7:38 - Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (ESV)

Luke 24:38-39 - And he said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your **hearts**? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. (ESV)

John 12:40 - He has blinded their eyes and hardened their **heart**, lest they see with their eyes, and **understand with their heart**, and turn, and I would heal them. (ESV)

Luke 24:25 - And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! (ESV)

Acts 15:8 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, (ESV)

Romans 8:27 - And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (ESV)

Acts 8:21 - You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. (ESV)

Romans 10:8-10 - But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (G3670 homologēsēs, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:22 - So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:12 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. (ESV)

I John 3:17 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

I John 3:21 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (ESV)

Eternal salvation goes to those who obey Jesus:

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

God's commandment is to bring about the obedience of faith (having faith is in God and through Jesus Christ is being obedient to God):

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith** — (ESV)

So to be saved a person must have an obedient heart, prepared for the good works which are prepared for us to walk in:

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For **by grace you have been saved through faith.** And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

Abraham believed and obeyed:

Genesis 26:4-5 - I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (ESV)

youtube.com: Steven Curtis Chapman - For The Sake Of The Call We will abandon it all for the sake of the call; No other reason at all but the sake of the call; Wholly devoted to live and to die; Not for the sake of a creed or a cause; Not for a dream or a promise; Simply because it is Jesus who called; And if we believe we'll obey

One of the criminals crucified next to Jesus came to the obedience of faith and obeyed the gospel:

Luke 23:39-43 - One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us! But the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. And he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. And he said to him, Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. (ESV)

In this way we must have faith in God the Father of Jesus Christ, and believe and obey Jesus because God commanded it.

According to Paul, Abraham trusted God and that trust he had meant he didn't waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he have glory to God.

That's right, and Abraham's faith included:

- faithfulness
 - No apistia
- giving glory to God
- obedience
- works of faith
 - not works of the law (which came later), but the works of faith such as:
 - * not accepting gifts from the king of Sodom
 - An interesting parallel is how the Apostle John's children/disciples were walking in love while walking in the truth, and rejecting offerings from Gentiles who were not walking in the truth:
 - **III John 1:4-8** - I have no greater joy than to hear that **my children are walking in the truth**. Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who **testified to your love before the church**. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out **for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles**. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. (ESV)
 - * placing Isaac on the Altar
 - * etc.

What I mean to say is, the faithful trust in God that Abraham had concerning the promise of God is exhibited plainly in Abraham's action, and was faithful, enduring, unwavering, over an amount of time.

Romans 4:20-25 - No distrust (**apistia**) made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness. But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

In Hebrews, we are also instructed to "not waver" in our confession. So what we are agreeing with and continuing to agree with certainly does matter. We should keep confessing what we are hoping for and hold fast to that confession and not waver. God is faithful and His promises are trustworthy and we should agree with and be corrected by and keep agreeing with God:

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (ESV)

Interlinear biblehub.com 4-20.htm: Romans 4:20 Interlinear: and at the promise of God did not stagger in unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, having given glory to God,

1 apistia: unbelief

2 Original Word: , ,

3 Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

4 Transliteration: apistia

5 Phonetic Spelling: (ap-is-tee'-ah)

6 Definition: unbelief

7 Usage: unbelief, unfaithfulness, distrust.

Therefore, when we trust wholeheartedly in God who has raised from the dead Jesus Christ (who is our Lord, meaning we obey Him), and because we believe, we then inevitably produce working faith.

We're supposed to do good works of faith by Jesus' power so that Jesus' name is glorified - and those works done in Jesus' power are entirely given by grace to us:

II Thessalonians 1:11-12 - To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every **work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, *according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (ESV)

When we talk about 'merit' or 'credit', we were enabled to even be able to have merit in suffering for righteousness sake because Jesus bore our sins on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 'Live to righteousness' means walking in the light, walking in love and truth, practicing works that please God, making spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 13:1-8 says that without love (love that rejoices with the truth) we gain nothing. God loved us first and has chosen us to be a holy people for His possession, and we can now make spiritual sacrifices which God finds acceptable through Jesus Christ our Lord who we are holding faith in and who has loved us first, laying down His life for us first:

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. **For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

I Peter 2:4-5 - As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer **spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

Our faith is exhibited plainly in our action. Our own actions and way of expressing that faith paint a unique picture, with a faith towards God that may be expressed a little bit differently, in different works of faith, or simply keeping Jesus Christ's words and not denying His name - patient endurance.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

But it is all by God's grace that we are saved. A believing and obedient heart is a trusting heart - a heart of faith - and our obedience gives us confidence. All glory to God alone. We must obey Jesus to become like Jesus:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

We should both believe and obey:

Deuteronomy 30:20 - loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. (ESV)

Believe and obey (follow) Jesus:

John 10:24-28 - So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Exodus 33:17 - And the Lord said to Moses, This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.

John 10:16 - And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

Jesus knows us and we know Jesus:

John 10:14 - I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, (ESV)

We must be keeping Jesus' commandments for us to be sure that we have come to know Him:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

Jesus commands us to take His yoke (obey Him) and learn from Him (believe Him):

Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (ESV)

Whoever believes Jesus obeys Jesus - His sheep hear his voice, trust and obey:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (pisteuōn): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

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John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

God loves those who love Him and keep His commandments:

Nehemiah 1:5 - And I said, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

If a person has an obedient and believing heart - a heart of faith - towards Jesus, then they will be saved:

- If a person truthfully confesses (admits) with their mouth that Jesus is Lord, they have an obedient heart.
 - They believed that Jesus is Lord, King, Master.
 - This must result in the person obeying Jesus; freely forgiving others, loving others as He loved us, keeping Jesus' commandments
- If they believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, they believe Jesus, and believe God who sent Him.
 - They obey Jesus' commandment to trust in Him / trust Him.

- This must result in the person accepting forgiveness for sin.

Romans 10:9 - because, if you confess (G3670 homologēsēs, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (ESV)

We should definitely confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus to others:

Luke 12:8-9 - And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. (ESV)

I believe that a person does not have any security of eternal salvation unless they have in their heart obedient, believing faith in Jesus Christ, and even then there is often a race and a journey to receive it.

alpinebible.com: Rescued Along The Roman Road - Alpine Bible “Whoever” means that any person can be saved, no matter who that person is. No matter how terrible a person and his circumstances may be, that person can be saved. You may be enslaved by the most terrible spirit of sin and evil imaginable—God will still save you.

biblehub.com 10-9.htm: Romans 10:9 Interlinear: that if thou mayest confess [[<https://biblehub.com/greek/3670.htm>][G3670 homologeó]] with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and mayest believe in thy heart that God did raise him out of the dead, thou shalt be saved,]]

1 4982 [e]
 2 sōthēsē
 3 .
 4 you will be saved
 5 V-FIP-2S

The knowledge of the truth is for those who abide in Jesus' word and follow Him:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuó, pepisteukotas) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

I believe that obedience is as intrinsic and necessary to faith as belief is.

The good news must be united by obedient faith (putting Jesus' words into action):

Hebrews 4:1-2 - Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. (ESV)

Philippians 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, (ESV)

I believe in 'once saved, always saved, while doing the will of God'. So someone must be both a believer and a follower of Jesus. We must have Jesus as our number one agape love, treasuring Him, obeying His commandments, particularly to believe in Him and love one another as He loved us.

Hebrews 7:23-25 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost **those who draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (ESV)

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

I Corinthians 10:7-12 - Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore **let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.** (ESV)

The type of faith that saves is a faith that agape loves the truth. So we have faith in Jesus and we agape love Him. Sanctification is a process that lasts some period of time. But we come to Jesus, we trust and obey Him, Jesus takes our idols from us (we give them up for Him), we shed the things of the old sinful nature and then Jesus gives us rest at some point, and at that point our hearts have been transformed to love our family in Christ sincerely.

For permanent abiding we need to have been perfected in holiness (sanctification must have come to completion with us having put off sinful stuff that would prevent a person from abiding forever). If we hold hate for anyone in Christ, (i.e. the opposite of agape love for them), then we would not have eternal life. At the end of sanctification, is being "always saved" and having eternal life that cannot be lost. Can a person fall way before arriving at this point? I think so. We have to continue holding faith in Jesus and obeying Jesus and Jesus gives us rest. But the slave to sin does not remain in the house forever. This is why we trust and obey Jesus and it is Jesus who gives the rest when He gives it because He transforms our hearts to love the light, to love the truth.

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

I think we are permanently saved when we are following Jesus.

We are saved from dying by Jesus giving us His Spirit and then, so long as we are His sheep, coming to Him (by following His commandments), we will live forever, in Him.

John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (ESV)

I believe that anyone who is trusting Jesus is saved by Him through His finished work. That's not a call to not abide in / obey Jesus' teachings. God raised Jesus from the dead for our justification. If we believe this fact we believe God's testimony about Jesus - that's important and it shows we trust God. Believing the gospel and trusting Father God, trusting Jesus, trusting God's words, trusting Jesus and God's words spoken through Jesus is obeying the gospel.

God's words are fulfilled in their time, which may be immediately! God's words are reliable!

Luke 1:20 - And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time. (ESV)

When we trust Jesus, we believe who He is and what He accomplished and we believe His words.

If a person thinks Jesus is untrustworthy then if they say they put trust in Jesus they have put their trust in the wrong Jesus because the real Jesus **is** trustworthy and His words **are** trustworthy. So the one who truly puts their trust in Jesus is the one who trusts Jesus, hears His voice and believes Him and follows Him.

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

I also think there's more to faith in Jesus than just an intellectual belief as far as getting to know your Saviour (knowing God) and abiding forever. I think we need to actually trust Jesus - so we believe His words when we hear them. Because we must bear fruit etc. and follow His commandments to come to know Him. I don't condemn anyone who is believing on Him for life through His name.

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to **do** the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

Jesus Christ is the Lord referred to:

II Corinthians 3:15-18 - Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord (*Kύριος, Kyrios, Lord, Master*) is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

If you have trusting faith in God then you will walk according to the will of God (walk the way Jesus Christ calls us to walk in obedience to Jesus, as a response of love to God in the knowledge He loved us first). **Led by the Spirit = following Jesus.**

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, **he must follow me;** and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

That's not *working* but it is *walking* and it is being obedient to Jesus. The Israelites through the Red Sea were being led by the Spirit - they were not working for God as they walked in obedience:

Galatians 5:16-18 - But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But **if** you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Jesus' disciples here were being led by Jesus. As I understand it, we're only not guilty if we're trusting Jesus who justifies the ungodly. Trusting Him who justifies the ungodly has noticeable fruit of following Him because those who trust Him follow Him:

Matthew 12:1-8 - At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath. He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath. (ESV)

Those who love Him, obey Him:

John 14:15-16 - **If you love me, you will keep my commandments.** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (ESV)

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under **trial**, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to **those who love him**. (ESV)

We love God and our brothers and sisters in Christ by following God's commandments:

I John 5:1-3 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when **we love God and obey his commandments**. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

The crown of life is gifted to those who are obedient, and have been tested. I think this verse can also be taken in the literal sense:

Revelation 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be **tested**, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)

And I also think people have free will to sabotage their race.

Clearly 'believe' means also 'to be obedient' to because the ones that follow Jesus (which means obey His commandments) are the ones who are counted as believing (**pisteuo**):

John 10:26-38 - but you do not believe (G4100 pisteuo) because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

We come into walking in the will of God:

Romans 8:13-17 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For **all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God**. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received **the Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him**. (ESV)

Those in the process of being sanctified by Jesus are sons:

Hebrews 12:5-8 - And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:10-13 - For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For **he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers**, saying, I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold, I and the children God has given me. (ESV)

We put our trust in Jehovah God. We put our trust in Jesus:

Isaiah 12:2 - Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. (ESV)

People fall away if they are not freed from sin. We're seeking to be freed from sin:

John 8:34-36 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

We seek to be adopted as sons. To receive the Spirit of God's Son in our hearts is what I think it means to be set free by the Son:

Galatians 4:4-9 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I guess that means we should become slaves of Christ! We should be overcome by Christ:

Romans 6:22-23- But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification **and its end, eternal life.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (ESV)

Christ's Spirit is a spirit of adoption as sons, by whom **we cry**, "Abba! Father!" It's not a spirit of slavery. So with a spirit of adoption we are slaves to God:

Romans 8:13-17 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

Abba, Father!

We must be in Christ Jesus as a new creation:

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, **if** anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The **old has passed away;** behold, the **new has come.**

A **new creation** has faith working through love and keeps Jesus Christ's commandments:

Galatians 6:15 - For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. (ESV)

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only **faith working through love.** (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. (ESV)

A new creation lives for Christ:

II Corinthians 5:14-17 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Following Jesus Christ is not having a religious spirit, but it's serving God in reality:

Ephesians 5:13-16 - But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (ESV)

Galatians 3:26 - for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. (ESV)

Bible study youtube.com: Free from Judgment, Fighting Sin, Full Assurance @time: 30 min 46 sec

Jesus is asking of us to believe that He is the resurrection and the life; Coming to a belief which [in John's terminology] involves personally committing oneself to Jesus as Son of God, Saviour, Lord, Lamb of God and King:

- Alistair Begg: The Hour Has Come - Part One

Jesus has to know us:

Matthew 25:1-13 - Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him. Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves. And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

I believe that Jesus has a lot of grace for the weak and the powerless, the children and the humble:

Revelation of John 3:8 - I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

And it's about the heart:

Mark 12:41-44 - And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on. (ESV)

Good work is rewarded. Lazy, disobedient belief is punished, and the worthless servant who was entrusted with some work but was unfaithful with his work (doesn't matter how much work it is) is cast away. Jesus isn't a hard taskmaster but wants our whole heart. Jesus must be our Master:

Matthew 25:14-30 - For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him, You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

It's all about the heart though, as Ignatius says "*Let us not, therefore, be insensible to His kindness. For were He to reward us according to our works, we should cease to be.*":

Ignatius to the Magnesians 10 - Let us not, therefore, be insensible to His kindness. For were He to reward us according to our works, we should cease to be. Therefore, **having become His disciples, let us learn to live according to the principles of Christianity.** For whosoever is called by any other name besides this, is not of God. Lay aside, therefore, the evil, the old, the sour leaven, and be ye changed into the new leaven, which is Jesus Christ. Be ye **salted** in Him, lest any one among you should be corrupted, since *by your savour ye shall be convicted.* It is absurd to profess Christ Jesus, and to Judaize. For Christianity did not embrace Judaism, but Judaism Christianity, that so every tongue which believeth might be gathered together to God.

The righteous obey Jesus, and love our neighbour as He loved them; as He commanded:

Matthew 25:31-40 - When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

There is earthly food and drink and spiritual food and drink:

I Corinthians 10:1-4 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ.** (ESV)

The ones who do not obey Jesus go to eternal punishment:

Matthew 25:41-45 - Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying, Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.

The ones who are slaves to righteousness, following Jesus Christ, go to eternal life:

Matthew 25:46 - And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

5.9.7 Believing Jesus, we have *the right* to become a child of God

John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (ESV)

OK, so how? We must continue in what we have learned from the Holy Scriptures and continue in what we have firmly believed:

II Timothy 3:14-15 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

We hear the gospel and believe in Him:

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

Believers then commit to the Lord:

Acts 14:23 - And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. (ESV)

This commitment to the Lord I believe is having a love for Jesus, which shows itself in obedience:

John 16:27 - for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

To abiding in His word is to commit to Jesus:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

Believers are generally sealed with the Holy Spirit when they first believe:

Acts 11:17 - If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way? (ESV)

Acts 19:2 - And he said to them, Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. *katechó* Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us**; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve**. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

We are saved as we are believing:

Romans 13:11 - Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. (ESV)

In this case, a great number of the total number of believers ended up turning to the Lord:

Acts 11:21 - And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. (ESV)

In this case, the full number of the total believers had turned to the Lord:

Acts 4:32 - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. (ESV)

Father God who has spoken through the Prophets draws us to Jesus. We believe in Jesus and we are drawn to Jesus:

John 6:64-66 - But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father. After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. (ESV)

John 6:44-51 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. (ESV)

Going forward, we must remain faithful to Jesus:

Acts 11:23-24 - When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. (ESV)

We receive the Holy Spirit after / at the same time as believing. We want to be found in Jesus:

John 7:39 - Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)

I Peter 4:13-14 - But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. (ESV)

In this situation, **all** of the believers were of one heart and mind:

Acts 4:32 - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Who You Say I Am - Hillsong Worship

We believe and then we come to know Jesus:

John 6:68-69 - Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God. (ESV)

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

Receive Jesus, believing in His name:

John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (ESV)

Matthew 18:5 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, (ESV)

We must abide by Jesus Christ's teaching. Whoever does not abide in Jesus Christ's teaching does not have God:

II John 1:9 - **Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.** Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (ESV)

We must obey righteousness. Yes, obey Jesus' commandments and obey Father God's commandments:

Romans 2:6-8 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

The children of God are the ones who love other children of God by following God's commandments:

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

Don't squabble about free-will and sit on the fence until the second coming. Just do it:

I Chronicles 28:20 - Then David said to Solomon his son, **Be strong and courageous and do it.** Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for **the LORD God, even my God, is with you.** He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished. (ESV)

Ezra 10:4 - Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; **be strong and do it.** (ESV)

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it. (ESV)

God loves us by allowing us to know Him and be called children of God:

Romans 8:16 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (ESV)

I John 3:1 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (ESV)

John 11:50-52 - Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish. He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. (ESV)

Romans 8:21 - that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (ESV)

God adopts us and cleans us up and puts us on display:

Philippians 2:15 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (ESV)

I John 3:18 - Little children, let us not **love** in word or talk but **in deed and in truth.** (ESV)

Children look like their Father:

I John 3:7 - Little children, let no one deceive you. **Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.** (ESV)

People who do not practice righteousness, and do not abide in Christ's teachings probably don't actually believe or have faith in Jesus:

II Thessalonians 3:1-6 - Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be *delivered from wicked and evil men.* **For not all have faith.** But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And **we have confidence** in the Lord about you, that **you are doing and will do the things that we command.** May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. (ESV)

II John 1:4 - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. (ESV)

III John 1:4 - I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are **walking in the truth.** (ESV)

Whoever loves with Christ's love knows Father God:

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

I John 2:13 - I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, **children, because you know the Father.** (ESV)

5.9.8 My understanding of repentance

We need all of these:

- Belief in Jesus and His atoning sacrifice
- Obedience to Jesus' commandments
 - Obeying the law of Christ
- Putting a stop to sin

[youtube.com: Is Lordship Salvation Biblical? {The "Cheap Grace" Gospel EXPOSED!!}](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfXzvBjwIY)

II Chronicles 7:14 - if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (ESV)

Repentance leads to belief and obedience to Jesus:

- Someone who has only belief in the gift of grace and no obedience to Jesus (which is effectively hating Jesus) must repent and come to have an obedient heart.
 - **II John 1:9-10** - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)
- Someone who has only obedience to Jesus' precepts but unbelieving and unsubmissive to the righteousness of God must repent and come to have a believing heart.
 - **John 20:27-28** - Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God!

Jesus' sheep hear His voice and they follow Him:

John 10:26-29 - but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (ESV)

We love Jesus by keeping His commandments:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and **keeps them, he it is who loves me.** And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. He has to be our Lord:

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (ESV)

I repeat this:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and **keeps them, he it is who loves me.** And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

We want to abide in God's love through following Jesus' commandments, and then nothing can separate us from His love.

God draws the person to Jesus:

John 6:44-46 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Draw Me Close | feat. Michael Bethany | Gateway Worship

Jesus said He will not cast people out who have come to Him, and it's His sheep who come to Him, those who follow Him:

John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (ESV)

Coming to Jesus is the requirement for not being cast out, and coming to Jesus Christ means obedience and following Jesus.

We must receive the kingdom of God like a child - like Father God's child. Children easily **trust, believe, follow and obey their parents** - they also **act like their parents**. We must **receive the kingdom of God like a child of God**:

Luke 18:16-22 - But Jesus called them to him, saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not **receive the kingdom of God like a child** shall not enter it. And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

Following Jesus may simply mean going to Him for mercy; asking Him for mercy or forgiveness:

Hebrews 4:15-16 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

Jesus' sheep follow Him:

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

There are wandering sheep, too, sheep that aren't exactly making a bee-line:

Isaiah 53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (ESV)

Coming to Jesus involves denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily to follow Him:

Luke 9:23 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:31 - I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! (ESV)

Christ Jesus judged Paul **faithful** - Paul was faithful, and Jesus Christ is Paul's Lord. Paul received mercy to become obedient. Paul received mercy because he was **acting ignorantly** - behaving in a way which came from disbelief. So then, Christ Jesus displays in Paul His perfect patience to those who would trust in Him for eternal life and be brought from ungodliness into godliness - disobedience into obedience.

I Timothy 1:12-16 - I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. (ESV)

We **must** believe:

Romans 11:20-23 - That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

God acts for those who wait for Him:

Isaiah 64:4 - From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. (ESV)

We must **love** the truth:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

We **must** be obedient:

John 15:1-6 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Also, waiting on the LORD our strength is renewed:

Isaiah 40:31 - but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (ESV)

We are ourselves empowered thanks to Jesus' own endurance, and that is unlocked by having believing, obedient, trusting, following faith in Jesus where we are being led by His Spirit, and are walking by His Spirit:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** (ESV)

We **must** put a stop to sin - it's for our own good:

Ezekiel 18:20-21 - The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. (ESV)

Romans 6:2-3 - By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (ESV)

Mark 1:8 - I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Acts 1:5 - for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. (ESV)

Romans 6:17-17 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, (ESV)

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Jeremiah 4:4 - **Circumcise yourselves to the LORD**; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds. (ESV)

So I believe that Jesus saves us by giving us of His Spirit and helping us to put sin to death, through obedient faith:

1 John 3:4-9 - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that **he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.** Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (ESV)

Walking in obedient faith is walking in forgiveness and love towards other people, forgiveness and love that flows out from having been loved and having been forgiven.

The faith working through love towards God and other people flows out of believing in and accepting Jesus and His atoning sacrifice and from being freely forgiven by Jesus.

I think the person who has arrived at this point has repented from dead work and is now living for Jesus.

5.9.9 We must have a changed heart, which longs to serve the living God, to be a bondservant of Jesus. AMEN!!

- Firstly, obedience is a heart attitude, so a person can have obedient faith without any work.
 - **Psalms 119:34** - Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. (ESV)
 - For example, to keep the command to not work on the Sabbath is to obey but not to work! Thus this example shows that obedience to God doesn't strictly mean working. That's the only point I want to make. Of course, doing good works out of faith/obedience on the Sabbath as Jesus did is also still obedience. What is not done in faith is sin.
 - * **Deuteronomy 16:8** - For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it. (ESV)
- Secondly, obedient action is nothing to boast about before God, because God commanded you to do it.
 - **Romans 4:2** - For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. (ESV)

- Thirdly, "working for God" is as step beyond obedient action.
 - Paul doesn't claim his full rights in the gospel (even rights shown by God's precepts in God's law) that He might receive reward from God for going beyond the call of His duty:
 - **I Corinthians 9:12,9:15-18** - If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. (ESV)

Being a slave to righteousness is essential for eternal life.

Are we slaves and/or bondservants? Both.

If Jesus entrusts us with stewardship then we **must** be obedient slaves to Jesus Christ in this regard. We also are rewarded for going beyond the call of duty - as bondservants.

I Corinthians 9:17-18 - For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. (ESV)

When it comes to being saved to serve Christ, we can't boast that in some way we earned salvation outside of God's gift/grace:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

Romans 11:32 - For God has consigned all to disobedience (543. *apeitheia* - *willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience*), that he may have mercy on all. (ESV)

Even with stewardship (being brought into service to God with a calling), we have different gifts, a different calling. We cannot compare or boast in this regard because we are *stewards* of His varied grace. We're different parts of the body of Christ. Being a steward, we are obligated to fulfill our calling. But, technically, we may have something to boast about if we go beyond what is required of us.

I Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good **stewards** of God's varied grace: (ESV)

Paul preaches free of charge so as not to make full use of his right in the gospel, and understands he will be rewarded for this:

I Corinthians 9:15-18 - But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 2:19 - For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? (ESV)

Galatians 6:4 - But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. (ESV)

We boast in Lord who has given us an area of influence. For me that might be on GitHub, I guess, since that's where I'm writing my Bible Study. We still hope that this influence spreads and the gospel message is taken further.

II Corinthians 10:12-18 - Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commanding themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding. But we will not boast beyond limits, but will **boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you**. **For we are not overextending ourselves**, as though we did not reach you. We were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But **our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you**, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord. For it is not the one who commands himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commands. (ESV)

Boasting should never be with selfish ambition:

James 3:14 - But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. (ESV)

We are all **stewards** of God's varied grace so there is obligation to serve one another:

I Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good **stewards** of God's varied grace: (ESV)

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

We shouldn't be deterred from using the word "slave" by the bad connotations of the word "slave" when we're talking about being a "slave to righteousness" or a "slave to God".

When we are called by God, what matters is keeping the commandments of God. I disagree with the added word "conversely" which the BSB translation inserts into I Corinthians 7:22 where it does not exist in the Greek. In fact, the Greek says "likewise" (G3668 homoiós, likewise, in a similar manner). Whether slaves to men or not, under the Mosaic Law or not, as a new creation in Christ we go on keeping God's commandments for us, and that counts for something for all of us (**Galatians 3:28**), not just some of us. We have to continue on abiding in Jesus' commandments. Everyone who is "in Christ" is both a freedman of the Lord Jesus Christ and a slave of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus sets us free from slavery to sin to serve Him instead. Before we were "free in regard to righteousness" but no longer:

I Corinthians 7:17-24 - Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity. **For he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise (G3668 homoiós, likewise, in a similar manner) he who was free when called is a slave of Christ**. You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. (ESV)

John 8:34-36 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

The Bible condemns the slave trade:

I Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, **enslavers** (G405 andrapodistés, man-stealers, kidnappers, slave-traders, enslavers), liars, perjurors, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

God gives us the new heart when we seek to have that new heart.

To be saved we need to have an obedient heart to God.

Will to do God's will - will to be obedient, and God will give you the heart to obey Him.

When you trust Jesus, you will to do His will.

Living as a new Creation in Christ means God has given you the heart to desire to obey Jesus' commandments. We are under Christ's law.

It means, through the power of **the Holy Spirit**, to no longer practice lying, adultery, idolatry, and covetousness, and to no longer dishonour our parents, and to now honour Jesus Christ in our lives and bodies.

It's going from disobedience to God (as Adam was disobedient) to obedience to God (as Christ is obedient):

Romans 15:17-18 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed,

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but **keeping the commandments of God**. (ESV)

Faith works through love; we must be like Jesus - exercising sacrificial, merciful love. The term 'new creature' is used in Galatians 6 after saying we must 'put sin to death and do good', sowing to the spirit and not to the flesh. Don't obey/sow into the dead/inanimate body, but rather put to death / end the deeds of the body.

Sowing to the Spirit is obediently following Jesus:

Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (ESV)

Romans 8:10 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Faith is obedient. Love is applied faith in Jesus:

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

Galatians 6:15 - For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. (ESV)

Talk youtube.com: No changed life salvation? Refuting Free Grace and @jacksrnack77

Grace is free, but a person **must** become obedient - God gives the heart to obey, but a person must desire to do God's will to receive it.

Revelation of John 22:3 - No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. (ESV)

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

I believe that becoming the righteousness of God is **cooperative** when we begin trusting God through trusting Jesus and as we continue walking by faith, submitting to the righteousness of God (Jesus' righteousness), being found in Jesus and continuing to be found in Jesus, trusting in Him and not denying Him, letting Jesus wash us, and work in us and we working out our own salvation, transform us and purify us as we cleanse ourselves while trusting in Him, and that a childlike trust in Jesus (a believing and obedient trust), following Jesus, walking in faith, and behaving as one of God's children, following Jesus our Lord and Saviour is how we receive and walk into the kingdom which is given to us and that walking in a childlike faith in Jesus is how we have the righteousness that is by faith.

I believe we have righteousness because we are found **in** Him, and He is our High Priest and or Lord and King, and Saviour. Living by faith is a lifestyle to be found in Jesus and that's how we have righteousness from Him, because we are found **in** Him and are being perfected and sanctified (in genuine agape love and holiness) like a branch getting healthier because it's connected to Jesus. It does not mean we are able to displace Him as the head of the body because we don't have righteousness apart from Him (as far as I understand):

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God.** **Working together with him**, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

We must live for the will of God:

I Peter 4:1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

If a person doesn't obey Jesus and His commandments then they probably are not saved because they either deny they have the spiritual circumcision which causes us to obey, or they do not have the heart to obey and receive salvation - so they are a goat, not a sheep.

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (*pisteuōn*): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

5.9.10 Trusting God, we must serve God through serving Christ to have the light of life

There are ordinances from God that are **against** us, and there are ordinances that are **for** us and for us Christians specifically. For example, we must forgive as we have been forgiven:

Colossians 3:12-13 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (ESV)

Some commandments are **against** our faith God and Christ, and some commandments that are **for** our faith in God and Christ:

Colossians 2:14 - Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances **that was against us**, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (KJV)

We must worship and serve God through Christ:

Malachi 3:18 - Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him. (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:3 - No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and **his servants will worship him**. (ESV)

Matthew 4:10 - Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall **worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve**. (ESV)

I Samuel 7:3 - And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and **direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only**, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:28-29 - Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

We must serve God by serving Christ who is the fulfillment of the law and prophets of God to have the light of life:

II Timothy 1:3 - I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. (ESV)

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

Having our old self crucified with Jesus, the body of sin might be brought to nothing so we would no longer be enslaved to sin:

Romans 6:6 - We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (ESV)

Jesus having fulfilled the law, we are called to meet the requirement of the law ourselves:

Galatians 5:14-16 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (**G3056 logō**): You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

Loving your neighbour as ourself involves not sinning against our own body as we seek not to sin against others:

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Sin made against our own body is really bad for us. This is a warning:

I Corinthians 6:16-20 - Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Romans 13:14 - But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

Sin no more so that nothing worse happens:

John 5:14 - Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you. (ESV)

John 8:10-11 - Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more. (ESV)

I take it to mean what Paul calls the "body of sin" and the "flesh" are the same thing. We are called to serve God through Christ:

Romans 7:25-8:1 - Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 1:9 - For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you (ESV)

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

Psalms 56:11-13 - in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life. (ESV)

5.9.11 Examples of obedience without 'works'

Resting on the Sabbath:

Leviticus 23:3 - Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places. (ESV)

Forgiveness:

Colossians 3:12-14 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)

Not lying:

Ephesians 4:25 - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:19 - Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:20-28 - But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (ESV)

5.9.12 God works in us and we obey Jesus. We keep Jesus' commandments as He works in us

We rest from our own works, and let God work through us. We still obey Jesus. God sets up opportunities and we choose to obey Him. It's not burdensome. We just have to choose to obey God:

Hebrews 4:8-11 - For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of **another day later on**. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

Paul makes it clear that our own involvement is nothing. Without God it can't be fruitful. But we still obey God:

I Corinthians 3:6-8 - I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. (ESV)

5.9.13 Doing the will of God from the heart

The will of God:

- Arrive at maturity and fully assured in **all** the will of God
 - We must look at what all of the will of God is for us and endeavour to be mature and fully assured with all of it

- * **Colossians 4:12** - Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. (ESV)
- Have faith in Jesus Christ
 - **John 6:40** - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)
- Be transformed by the renewal of your mind
 - **Romans 12:2** - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)
 - We must take every thought captive to be obedient to Christ
 - * **II Corinthians 10:5-6** - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)
 - We want our mind to be the mind of Christ
 - * **I Corinthians 2:16** - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)
- Be a servant of Christ
 - **Ephesians 6:6** - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, (ESV)
- Give thanks in all circumstances
 - **I Thessalonians 5:18** - **give thanks in all circumstances**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (ESV)
- Abstain from evil
 - **I Thessalonians 4:3-8** - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)
 - **Romans 16:19-20** - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Then we arrive at having done the will of God for us, to the salvation of our souls:

Hebrews 10:36-39 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the **will of God** you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

I Peter 1:6-9 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

Mark 3:35 - Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother. (ESV)

Romans 8:27 - And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (ESV)

There's a lot in the Bible to explain what is the revealed will of God. Continuing on in discerning the will of God we should have a renewed mind. We should obey Jesus:

youtube.com: How Do We Know the Will of God? | John Piper Clip {@desiringGod} The Bible does not tell you which person to marry, or whether to marry. The Bible does not tell you which car to drive, or buy, rent. The Bible doesn't tell you whether to buy a home or not which home to buy. [The] Bible doesn't tell you which brand of orange juice to drink. There are 10,000 decisions you must make that are not explicitly addressed in the Bible so what do you do? If you want to obey the will of command my answer is you must have a renewed mind. That's what the text says.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

We end up thinking in a similar fashion to Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to do the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:1 - Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia: (ESV)

II Corinthians 8:5 - and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (ESV)

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Faith is not mental ascent to a set of propositions. Faith is not believing that Jesus exists. That's not what faith is. That's what we mean a lot of the times when we talk about faith in modern culture, right? Do you believe in Santa Claus? Yes or no? That means, do you think he's real or do you not? But whether you think he's real or not, I'll bet you for 99.9% of us, whether or not you think he's real, even if you did, it doesn't affect what you do on June 13th or May 14th, it has no bearing on your life. It doesn't affect anything. Even if on a scantron, true or false, Santa's real, you would say true. That's what we mean by modern easy beliefism.

I think that's true. So a lot of people scour the historicity and they scour the annals of time and they look at the person of Jesus and they say, "Do you believe in Jesus?" And when they say that they mean do you think he existed? Do you think he actually miraculously healed people? Do you think he died on the cross?

Do you think he was resurrected? Do you think he was seen after death? This is not what Paul means when he says do you believe in Christ?

Do you have faith? This word pistus in the Greek, do you are you a faithful of Christ? The term that we have to recognize that is going to be upsetting to many of us as we walk through the book of Ephesians. When you pick up Paul's dictionary, when he says the word faith, he does not mean do you ascribe to a set of mental propositions about the historicity or the person of Jesus. Do you think he was real? Do you think he died on the cross? Do you think he came back from the dead? This is not what Paul means. Okay. In the same way, here's this. I gotta get this chair. Hold for the president. This is all of you watching in Bethl on the other side of campus. I'm back. Okay. They can't see me when I go there. This is a chair. Okay. It has chairness. It's not a table. It's not a chicken. It's a chair. When you look at it, even from a distance, you could probably understand that this is a chair. Now, uh if I told you, I built the chair. I put it together with my own two hands from organic resources. I put this chair together. If I'm asking you to believe (like Paul does) in this chair, the question is not, do you think I built it? Do you think it has chairness? Do you think it has four legs? Do you think it has a place to sit? Do you think it has a back? This is what we understand to be belief. I believe in Jesus. Look, there he is. Look, that's what he did. Look, there he went. Look, there's who he healed. Paul's going, "No, no, no. That's a list of mental propositions." Paul says, "When I'm asking you, do you believe into Christ? Are you found in Christ? Do you have faith?" He doesn't mean, "Do you ascribe to all of the accidents of chairness and the characteristics of chair? Do you even think you know who built it? No. When Paul says, "Do you have faith in Christ?" He means this. "Are you willing to cross your arms, close your eyes, and go like this?"

[sits down on the chair with his eyes closed]

Could you imagine if that chair broke right now? It would have ruined my whole analogy. Paul says, "Do you believe in Christ? Are you betting your life on it? Are you taking your eternity in your hands, closing your eyes, and leaning in?" Now, it is an informed belief. I don't sit down in the chair until I go, "Yes, yeah, you did. You actually did die on a cross. You did come back from the dead. You have been faithful to your people historically speaking. I do have the Old Testament to show me how you've been faithful to your chosen people. Now, I'm part of the chosen people. It's an informed faith. It's not foolishness. I run a ramp of reason before I take my leap of faith. But once it's time, like we're going to talk about in baptism today, there is a moment where you need to go, got it. I believe into Christ. I don't just think he's there. I bet myself on it. The the way that um I think this is explained really well. From Yale Divinity, there's a teacher of the New Testament. Her name is Teresa Morgan. Here's what she says," Faith. (Okay, this is this word that Paul's going to use again and again. Pistis. In the Greek) is not primarily ascent. Okay, that's like nodding to propositions. Ascent like yeah, technically I guess it's not ascent to propositions. Propositions being like the apostles creed. I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. These are propositions. Uh suffered under Pontious Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He rose again on the third day. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father. From then he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and the life everlasting. Those that's a set of propositions. If you go, yeah, all those things are true. Paul goes, that is demonic faith. Why? They believe all that, too. They were there for it. They watched him come back and they went, "Oh no. Oh no. What do we do now? propositions you can ascent to them. That's not faith. That's not pistus in the Greek. It is because of this I bet my life on it. That's why when Paul talks about baptism, what does he talk about? A death to self.

The love of the truth (treasuring the truth) must be received and accepted to be saved:

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

People will put their trust in and love what is false:

II Thessalonians 2:11 - For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe (G4100 pisteuo) what is false (G5579 pseudos), (NASB)

Those people who did not have faith in the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness may be condemned. True 'pistis' faith involves an agape love of the truth as I Thes 2:10 shows:

II Thessalonians 2:12 - in order that all may be condemned who did not believe (G4100 pisteuo) the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

You can come to know God exists. I believe I have that been given that kind of knowledge after the experience of being born-again. So faith while it *involves* believing that God exists certainly involves more than that, because if a person comes to 'know God' exists, what then do they do with that knowledge? A demon would shudder. We also must love the truth and have a response of love for God. And we must continue to abide in Jesus. We must continue holding our faith in Him. Even the book of Hebrews here shows that faith involves believing that God rewards those who seek Him. It's wrong to say "merit doesn't exist" for Christians, but I firmly believe any merit which we might have is also grace. For example, we receive the opportunity to practice righteousness. No-one can say they have practiced true righteousness by themselves outside the grace of God.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

The love of the truth involves faith in the truth (which agape-loves the truth) and sanctification (being corrected, cleaned up by the truth through trusting and obeying the Truth, trusting and obeying Jesus Christ):

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Agape love not only assents to but rejoices with the truth:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

Pistis (faith) "Faith is not primarily assent to propositions but trust in a person - a trust that results in loyalty."
- Teresa Morgan (Yale Divinity)

Amen!

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It's not ascent to propositions. It's trust in a person. And it's a trust that results in loyalty. The language that she uses in this book that she writes is about allegiance. It's pledging allegiance to something. Pledging allegiance to a person, the king. That pledge of allegiance will change everything. Here's a way of putting it that helped me to summarize it in my mind. Faith is confidence. Confed that means with faith. Okay, fed is this word for faith. Faith is confidence with consequence. I don't mean consequences in punishment all the time. Consequence means there's something next in the sequence. Okay? It creates something else. It doesn't stop there. It is with something new. There's something that proceeds from it. It affects something else. It's catalytic. It's not static. It changes something else in life. So faith is confidence, but has consequence. I change who I am. I change often times who I'm with. I change how I perceive myself. I change everything. trusting Jesus so deeply that it changes everything. That's what that's what Paul means by faith.

Ephesians 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are **faithful in Christ Jesus:** (ESV)

Be a servant of Christ:

Ephesians 6:6 - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, (ESV)

Colossians 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, (ESV)

Arrive at maturity and fully assured in **all** the will of God:

Colossians 4:12 - Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in **all** the will of God. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (ESV)

Give thanks in all circumstances:

I Thessalonians 5:18 - **give thanks in all circumstances;** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

Hebrews 10:36 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. (ESV)

Doing good = holding to our confession and maintaining godly behaviour:

I Peter 2:15 - For this is the will of God, that by **doing good** you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (ESV)

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

5.9.14 Work may be burned up, and the person who has a believing and obedient heart is still saved

This person worked - served God - and this verse guarantees that the one who tried to work for God is still saved:

1 Corinthians 3:15 - If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (ESV)

I feel as though I Cor 3:11-15 probably applies to me right now, in that as I am writing theology, or "building a foundation" in the sense that Paul uses it, God could easily have it erased, or fellow brethren/family in Christ may simply not affirm it and my writings would be blown away by the wind. I think the passage probably applies now, already, rather than some far off thing like "purgatory" (if that is even a thing). However if purgatory is simply Roman Catholicism's way of explaining how a person may be cleaned up after death in a way similar to Isaiah 6:5-7, then, well honestly I do not know, but if I'm still certainly feeling unclean then I hope God would fully purge the sin. It's not an absurd idea.

I John 1:8-9 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:11-15 - For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. **If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.** (ESV)

Isaiah actually confessed to God he had unclean lips. When I stand before Jesus I hope that I do not find myself trying to defend sin. But like Isaiah, confessing sin as sin:

Isaiah 6:5-7 - And I said: Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts! Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for. (ESV)

I hope that I'm perfected in love by the time I stand before Jesus:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

I mean, protestants often call I John 1:9 the bar of soap. I know that walking in the light, in the love in truth, which includes agape-loving one another and confessing sin, the blood of Jesus cleanses us:

I John 1:9 - If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

5.9.15 Forever abiding is believing and being a disciple, a servant

John 15:4-8 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

We don't try to save our worldly life. We seek the Kingdom of God:

John 12:20-26 - Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, Sir, we wish to see Jesus. Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

AMEN!!

Obey God, obey Jesus. This doesn't say that obeying the 10 commandments is not important. To love God and your neighbour in truth from the heart is the way to do this. But **Mark 10:17-21** does say that following Jesus (treasuring Jesus, His words and putting them into practice) is vitally important:

Mark 10:17-21 - And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, **You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.**

5.10 God opens the eyes to see the light of the gospel

Sovereign God, looks into dead, glory-ignoring heart and says, "Let there be light!"

II Corinthians 4:3-6 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

[youtube.com: The Gospel of the Glory of Christ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJyfjwvzXQ)

5.11 Gospel

Amen [youtube.com: The Holy Spirit took over my preaching in Las Vegas and left me in awe and trembling](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJyfjwvzXQ)

We are being saved by the gospel as we hold fast to the word:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. *katechó* Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable* / *correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

By the grace of God, Christ died for our sins:

I Corinthians 15:3-8 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (ESV)

We believe the gospel and reckon ourself dead to sin, and alive to God:

Romans 6:11 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

By the grace of God we are transformed as we work out our salvation, and it's the grace of God working:

I Corinthians 15:9-11 - For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (ESV)

We must not deny Jesus. Jesus and not sin must be our Master:

Jude 1:4-5 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. (ESV)

God will sustain us to the end:

I Corinthians 1:4-9 - I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

Jude 1:24-25 - Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (ESV)

It's important that we do not go back into sinful practices:

Galatians 5:24 - And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (ESV)

Consider ourselves dead to sin because of what Jesus did for us. I was born-again and baptised into Jesus's death. We must not fall for the enemy's temptations.

Hebrews 3:13 - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (ESV)

The whole of Romans 6 shows that by faith we are enslaved to practicing righteousness (obedience):

Romans 6 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

God opens/softens our hearts to be receptive or hardens them to be unreceptive to what is said to us, but from our angle, we still receive or reject voluntarily. God guides and leads we're still asked to seek, receive, trust, obey and follow Jesus Christ and His teachings. Yes, salvation is by grace through faith, and it's a free gift, but we still trust and obey Jesus to be saved:

Acts 16:13-14 - And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (ESV)

This is grace working in us as we obey God:

Romans 11:6 - But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, **I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.** (ESV)

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

Message youtube.com: C S Lewis message 2024 - Faith in action God fights for you, but you must also act

The Good News of Jesus Christ is **the power of God for salvation** (stress: **power of God** for salvation) to everyone who believes:

- **salvation from sin**, and
- **eternal life in Christ Jesus.**

We have to repent and believe:

Mark 1:14-15 - Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel.** (ESV)

We have to believe and obey the Truth. We have to agree with the word of God, and allow God to correct our beliefs and behaviour:

John 17:17-19 - Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)

We have to be corrected by the word of God:

II Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

For those who believe, it is the power of God for salvation:

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the **power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (ESV)

The power of God **works** in us to sanctify us! We must realise that, that the gospel is the **power of God** for salvation to everyone who believes.

We have believing, obedient faith in the powerful working of God:

Colossians 2:12 - having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (ESV)

God works his power mightily towards those who believe:

Ephesians 1:19 - and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might (ESV)

Our faith should rest in the power of God - we should know God's power experientially:

I Corinthians 2:5 - that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (ESV)

Paul toils, struggling with all God's energy that **God works** powerfully within him:

Colossians 1:29 - For this **I toil, struggling** with all his energy that **he powerfully works within me.** (ESV)

Paul could noticeably see the power working within him and the others:

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, (ESV)

The true gospel comes in power:

I Thessalonians 1:5 - because **our gospel** came to you **not only in word**, but also **in power** and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. (ESV)

By the power of God, we share in suffering for the gospel:

II Timothy 1:8 - Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but **share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God**, (ESV)

The gospel allows us to become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the lusts of the world:

II Peter 1:3-4 - seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the true knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that **by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.** (NASB)

youtube.com: Assurance for Battle @time: 18 min 2 sec If you don't fight you're probably not born again.

At least, if you go on and on and on, slipping away from the vigilance of faith and fighting sin and the devil, you got no reason to think you're saved. Doesn't really matter what you prayed a long time ago, doesn't matter what card you signed. Doesn't matter. Baptism doesn't matter, what your parents did... Salvation is **real**. It's real! It's real! It's the work of God in a human heart, and there are **effects** from it, and one of the effects is when the lion comes you fight. I'm a believer and he will keep me safe through faith - that He, Himself works in me.

Some people will deny the **power** of the gospel:

II Timothy 3:1-7 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (5377. philotheos), having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a **knowledge of the truth.** (ESV)

Jesus Christ bore the punishment for our iniquity to bring us peace with God:

Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (ESV)

We must yield to Jesus. The Spirit we receive causes and helps us to obey. Our obedience is accredited to God working through us:

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

Jesus does work through us as we are believing in Him:

Philippians 2:13 - for it is **God who works in you, both to will and to work** for his good pleasure. (ESV)

Jesus makes it clear that the ones who believe do the same works He does:

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

We have **always obeyed**, participating in the Spirit, having one mind, that of a servant - God works through us:

Philippians 2:1-13 - So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who,

though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, **taking the form of a servant**, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (G1843 exomologeo) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work** for his good pleasure. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:6-8 - I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: John Fischer - Naphtali - 09 Live in the Power

'Believing obedience' produces work.

We are saved through faith - it's not our own doing - it's not a **result** of works - the works are a gift:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

Whoever trusts in Jesus Christ shouldn't perish, but they should have eternal life. We've just got to have faith in Jesus:

John 3:16-21 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever (G3956 pas) believes (G4100 pisteuo) in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God. (ESV)

The gospel *involves* having believing and obedient heart. The entrypoint is believing in Jesus Christ to be saved - that itself is an act of obedience.

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that **you believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him whom he has sent.** (ESV)

The obedience of heart:

- having of faith in Jesus and Jesus' name.

The obedience produces work:

- carrying out deeds done in God.
- coming to the light.

If belief and obedience can even be separated, I think being saved starts with belief or obedience and arrives at both belief and obedience. Belief and obedience are both fundamental qualities of faith.

Notice how just after **John 3:16** it says, "whoever does what is true comes to the light."

Whoever has faith in and puts their trust in in Jesus Christ is not condemned and should not perish.

We have **always obeyed** - God works through us:

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (katergazomai) your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is **God who works in you, both to will and to work** for his good pleasure. (ESV)

We must honour Jesus Christ:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes (G4100 pisteuo) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

I believe John 5:24 is a true statement and that it should not be read outside of the words Jesus said directly before it (Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him).

We do not nullify the rest of what Jesus has commanded of and asked of us. If Jesus is your judge, then I think it's wise to take on board the rest of what Jesus has said:

Philippians 1:15-22 - Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

We're not justified through the **works** of the law but we are through faith, and faith involves obedience to Jesus Christ. Being a "doer" of the law of Christ is whether or not a person's *heart* is right and "doing works of the Law" is different to being a "doer" of the Law:

Galatians 2:15-16 - "We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified.** For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

It's by faith in Christ that we are justified, and faith involves active belief, active trust - obedience (of the heart).

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

Verses such as this demonstrate the holy justice of God. God nearly put Moses to death:

Exodus 4:24-26 - At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me! So he let him alone. It was then that she said, A bridegroom of blood, because of the circumcision. (ESV)

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 agapaó - *value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. monogenēs - *unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 hina - *in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 pisteuo) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

biblehub.com 3-16.htm: John 3:16 Interlinear: for God did so love the world, that His Son – the only begotten – He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during.

1 3778 1063 25 3588 2316 3588 2889 5620
2 Houtōs gar ēgapēsen ho Theos ton kosmon hōste
3 0 θ ,
4 Thus for loved - God the world that
5 Adv Conj V-AIA-3S Art-NMS N-NMS Art-AMS N-AMS Conj
6
7 3588 5207 3588 3439 1325
8 ton Huion ton monogenē edōken
9 T , , ,
10 the Son the only begotten He gave
11 Art-AMS N-AMS Art-AMS Adj-AMS V-AIA-3S
12
13 2443 3956 3588 4100 1519 846
14 hina pas ho pisteuōn eis auton
15
16 so that everyone - believing in Him
17 Conj Adj-NMS Art-NMS V-PPA-NMS Prep PPro-AM3S
18
19 3361 622 235 2192 2222 166
20 mē apolētai all' echē zōēn aiōnion
21 , .
22 not should perish but should have life eternal
23 Adv V-ASM-3S Conj V-PSA-3S N-AFS Adj-AFS

It's faith in the heart which we need; obedience to Jesus Christ and belief in Jesus Christ in the heart, and belief and obedience to God who has raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

1 : 4100 pisteuo pist-yoo'-o
2
3 from 4102; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or
4 thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's
5 spiritual well-being to Christ):--believe(-r), commit (to trust), put
6 in trust with.
7 see GREEK for 4102

1 : 166 aionios ahee-o'-nee-os
2
3 from 165; perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as
4 well):--eternal, for ever, everlasting, world (began).
5 see GREEK for 165

1 : 2222 zoe dzo-ay'
2
3 from 2198; life (literally or figuratively):--life(-time). Compare

4 5590.

5 see GREEK for 2198

6 see GREEK for 5590

1 John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Matthew 22:37-39 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God. Believing on His name is God's will for us, and loving one another is God's will for us as He has commanded. There is more that Jesus has commanded us, too.

The promise to Gentiles:

Galatians 3:8 - And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham**, saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed. (ESV)

Genesis 12:3 - I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (ESV)

Because Abraham obeyed God's voice:

Genesis 22:18 - and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice. (ESV)

Repentance from sin, repentance from disbelief, and coming to the light are absolutely part of the gospel!

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you-unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (ESV)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

The grace given to Paul allowed him to turn from his evil ways and pursue Jesus, working diligently for Jesus. Therefore, the grace given to Paul was not in vain, because Paul responded well to the grace:

I Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. (ESV)

Acts 2:47 - Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: John Piper's Sermon with Scripture only

5.11.1 Living a godly life in Christ Jesus is part of the gospel

We are freely forgiven that we may freely forgive others out of an existing righteous standing we have with God thanks to God paying the price of our sin with Jesus' blood, and we may thus become the righteousness of God.

We are freely given mercy that we may freely give mercy to others out of an existing righteous standing we have with God thanks to God paying the price of our sin with Jesus' blood, and we may thus become the righteousness of God.

I think that believers in Jesus Christ, those that have faith in Jesus, arrive at doing Christ's love, fulfilling Christ's law, while affirming a certain standard of judgement to which they are also held accountable, derived from the original standard being God's Law, and affirming the precepts of God are a good thing where the most important matters are justice, mercy and faithfulness and Jesus' blood sanctifies us. We are also supposed to speak up for the God's Truth. We should affirm sound Christian teaching when it comes to what is sinful. Just because we may not judge others when it comes to something sinful, that doesn't mean that God wont judge us for practicing and affirming something sinful.

Quote from Mari Mari Emmanuel So fear nothing, love everyone, but be firm when it comes to speaking the truth. Truth cannot be compromised. ... The one who is all love, He was sharper than a sword; When it came to holding the Truth, fighting for the Truth, He stood firm, never gave way, never compromised. Now that is love. If you truly love someone, wouldn't you want them to be living in the Truth? If you truly love the person, you will tell them, "This is right... This is wrong..."

Amen youtube.com: The Holy Spirit took over my preaching in Las Vegas and left me in awe and trembling

II Timothy 3:1-7 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (5377. *philotheos*), having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a **knowledge of the truth**. (ESV)

Godliness (behaviour in accordance with the knowledge of the truth) has the power to change a person's life to go from being selfish to selfless.

We have knowledge of the truth through obedience to the gospel.

5.11.2 Faith is disqualified in people who disregard the teachings - they never arrive at the knowledge of the truth

II Timothy 3:8-12 - Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (ESV)

Galatians 2:14 - But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews? (ESV)

II Timothy 3:12-13 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (ESV)

People who go astray:

- suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.
- they count it pleasure to revel in the daytime.
- they are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.
- they have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin.
- They entice unsteady souls.

- They have hearts trained in greed.
- Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray.

God forgive us and grant us sanctification. I know I still have issues, and I want to put to death the sensuality, I want to be healed (John 5:6):

II Peter 2:1-22 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And **many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed**. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then **the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority**. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! **Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray**. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. **They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption**. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire. (ESV)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

5.12 Be a disciple of Jesus to be set free and abide forever

- To be Jesus' disciple, we must abide in Jesus' word / obey His commandments.
 - Have love for one another.
 - Love Jesus as He loved us.
 - Carry our cross:
 - * bear one-another's burdens.

- * renounce all that we have.
- Put following Jesus before all else.
- To come to know the truth, we must be Jesus' disciple.
- To be set free, we must know the truth.

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

John 8:31-36 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

Luke 9:23-24 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (ESV)

Luke 14:26 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate (3404. *miseó*, 3404 *miséō* – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

Luke 14:27 - Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

If someone exhibits love toward others, learns and lives the expectations unearthed in Scripture, denies self in all situations, has as their first relational allegiance Jesus Christ, and will die for the cause of Christ, then they can rest assured, they are a disciple of Jesus Christ.

See:

- <https://rickhowerton.wordpress.com/2015/05/06/you-are-my-disciple-if-the-five-ifs-of-a-disciple>

Romans 6:22-23 - But now having been freed from sin and **enslaved to God**, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been **set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life**. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Can you be overcome by sin again? Yes, you can. But we're supposed to be overcome by practicing righteousness. Jesus sets us free, washes and regenerates us. Once that happens, we must not go back into sin.

Hebrews 6:4-8 - For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. (ESV)

Romans 6:7 - For one who has died has been set free from sin. (ESV)

5.12.1 The high cost of following Christ

Billy Graham said here, "Change your mind and He will change your heart."

Sermon youtube.com: The High Cost of Following Christ | Billy Graham Classic Sermon

Matthew 13:44 - The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (ESV)

We are supposed to treasure people, that is true. But Jesus has to be our number 1. Jesus is worth more than anyone or anything. Marriage cannot be idolatry. God is worth more and needs to come first.

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

Luke 14:26-33 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate (3404. *miseó*, 3404 *miséō* – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. **Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.** For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, **any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.** (ESV)

Do not love the world:

- do not love desires of the flesh, and
- do not love the desires of the eyes, and
- do not love pride in possessions

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

Romans 12:1 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (ESV)

Matthew 24:9-13 - Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

Do not resist the one who is evil - but do good to them:

- **Romans 12:21** - Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.** (ESV)
- if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also
- if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well
- if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles
- Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you
- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

Matthew 5:38-48 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, **Do not resist the one who is evil.** But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate (3404. miseō, 3404 miséō – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

With Jesus' commandments in mind, we should have joy when the time of testing happens and things are taken away from us. It can take a really long time. But we need to not shrink back. I'm also speaking to myself.

Hebrews 10:34-39 - For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Luke 6:30 - Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. (ESV)

We must draw closer to Jesus and seek Jesus first and **trust Jesus** because to be in relationship with God is the most important thing. To not be in relationship with God is to abide in death:

Matthew 6:31-33 - Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

We are commanded to reject the idols to treasure God first. If we do this then we draw near to God and God draws near to us:

II Corinthians 6:17-18 - Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

Psalms 73:25-28 - Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works. (ESV)

James 4:7-10 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. (ESV)

I'd like to point out for the following excerpt that just because faith and repentance are gifted to us from God doesn't mean that we wait for it before trying to will to have faith or to repent - i.e. it may seem as though we initiated it at the time.

youtube.com: Is repentance an aspect of faith, or is repentance a good work? {@ligonier} @time: 3 min

PARSONS: It is important that we distinguish between an act and 'works'. The word "work" or "works" in the New Testament is language that the Apostle Paul uses and others use in reference to things that we do in order to *earn* our salvation, things that we do that sort of either initiate with us, begin with us, things that we do to earn our salvation. (That language of work or works is different than something we do.)

We do repent, we do believe, but we have to understand why we believe and why we repent. It's Romans 2:4, I believe, that Paul says, "Don't you know that it's the kindness of God that's meant to lead you to repentance?" So, do we repent? Yes. Is it something we do? Is it an act? Yes. Is it a work, technically? No, it is something that God by His kindness leads us to, just as He grants us the gift of faith according to Ephesians 2:8-10. The entirety of the believer's conversion and coming to the Lord, of course, is all of grace.

LAWSON: And repentance is a sovereign gift that God gives us as well. He gives both saving faith and repentance. That's why God is the author of our salvation. He provides everything. All we provide, as you said, is the sin that we hold in our hands that was laid upon Christ.

5.12.2 Give our mind to Christ

1 John 2:3-5 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: (ESV)

We should use the Word of God to come against even arguments and opinions which are raised against the knowledge of God. Even our thoughts must be brought into obedience to Christ:

II Corinthians 10:2-6 - I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

"ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete" I think means to even be ready to come against slip-ups.

Proverbs 16:32 - Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. (ESV)

Follow God's statutes until the end. It's very blessed to do so.:

Psalms 84:11 - For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (ESV)

Allow God to change our heart and take our idols away from us and teach us to love Him and others as we take our thoughts captive to be obedient to Jesus:

Encouragement youtube.com: Psalm 119:33 follow Gods statutes until the end.

For example: Having given your money away to the poor, then when the devil typically tempts us through other people or through a dream, or whatever way, by saying that "Christians still have their vices". Then instead of spending money on whatever has previously been a vice, we should put that money into God's Kingdom, and I truly believe that God sanctifies and works in us as we choose to obey Jesus and are taught (corrected) by Jesus Himself by His teachings. God sets up the opportunities.

Luke 11:39-41 - And the Lord said to him, Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. (ESV)

1Clem prologue:1 (from the first epistle of Clement to the Corinthians) The Church of God which sojourneth in Rome to the Church of God which sojourneth in Corinth, to them which are called and sanctified by the will of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to you and peace from Almighty God through Jesus Christ be multiplied.

Psalms 119:1-19 - Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Aleph Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me! How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. Beth With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. Gimel Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me! (ESV)

The Apostle John is teaching Jesus' teachings. Even if we / when we sin, we should just confess (G3670 homologeó) the sin we did, confess (G3670 homologeó) it as sin, turn away from it and try to not cease obeying Jesus, practicing His commandments. We shouldn't be deterred from "getting back up" when we make mistakes, but we want to continue with a good conscience having confessed the sin as sin and continuing endeavouring to practice Jesus' commandments, serving Jesus. We want to be walking in the light, practicing our righteousness (obeying Jesus who is our righteousness) with a good conscience with God:

I John 1:5-10 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

5.13 The free gift of salvation is to be set free from sin to be a slave of righteousness

The free gift is to be set free from sin to be a slave of righteousness - that is received through faith, received by those who obey Jesus.

The faith that receives the free gift of salvation is obedient to Jesus.

So when the Spirit begins working in you, and you obey, you are receiving the salvation.

Is this considered being saved by works or being saved by faith?

This is considered being saved by faith and not by works.

We must now consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. We must now present ourselves as obedient slaves to righteousness - yes, practicing personal righteousness in accordance with Jesus Christ's commandments.

Romans 6 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that **all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For **if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So **you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient **from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (ESV)

Therefore, to be in Christ Jesus our Lord, God puts us in and we then have a change of mindset, presenting ourselves as obedient slaves to Jesus Christ. Is that considered a bad thing to be a slave to righteousness? No, it's considered as being in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit in us is **the gift** which is in us:

II Timothy 1:6-7 - For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:21-22 - And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (ESV)

Sanctification is a part of salvation which results in a heart and mind that agape loves the truth:

Hebrews 10:10-39 - And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, Vengeance is mine; I will repay. And again, The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Lawless acts come from unbelief:

I Timothy 1:12-14 - I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

OK, so as a people that Jesus purchased for His own posession, we are brought to no longer be lawless, and the deeds we committed when we were lawless is what God will no longer remember. But we are corrected:

Hebrews 10:16-17 - This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. (ESV)

5.13.1 Receiving the Holy Spirit

God poured out His Holy Spirit richly on us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. This would not be possible without having sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins and be raised for our justification. To be able to be justified is pure grace. To be able to have faith in Jesus is pure grace. But we must put our faith in Jesus Christ!

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of

regeneration and renewal of **the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

So we should ask God to receive **the Holy Spirit**, and believe He will give **the Holy Spirit** to us:

Luke 11:13 - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him! (ESV)

This says Father God gives **the Holy Spirit** to His children. Then we should seek to behave as His children and ask Him for the Holy Spirit:

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

Who receives **the Holy Spirit**? The ones who obey God!

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit @time: 48 min 13 sec "If anyone keeps Jesus' word, holds fast, treasures it, in obedience, that person will not be quenching the Spirit, that person will not be grieving the Spirit, but will know the fullness and sweetness of fellowship with the Father and the Son." - AMEN to that, John Piper

The Holy Spirit is received through faith:

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might **receive the promised Spirit through faith**. (ESV)

We need to obey Jesus to see the life. That obedience isn't "working" but it is "performing/carrying out" but our justification isn't contingent on "working":

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but **the wrath of God remains on him**. (ESV)

- G4100 (pisteuōn): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?** So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

On the other hand, if we obey Jesus we will never see death:

John 8:51 - Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone **keeps my word**, he will never see death. (ESV)

We receive the spirit by getting Jesus' words into us, believing them and obeying them. Feeding on them, we get Jesus' spirit and life into us:

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

The Spirit was given after Jesus was glorified:

John 7:37-39 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)

Jesus was glorified and God glorified in Him when He laid down His life for us and bore much fruit:

Luke 24:26 - Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? (ESV)

John 12:23-24 - And Jesus answered them, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (ESV)

John 17:1 - When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, (ESV)

John 13:31 - When he had gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. (ESV)

This seems to show that to follow Jesus we must also lay our lives down for Him:

John 13:36-38 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered him, Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward. Peter said to him, Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you. Jesus answered, Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times. (ESV)

So to receive the Holy Spirit:

- Have faith in Jesus,
 - believe Jesus,
 - obey Jesus,
- practice righteousness, and
 - ask God for the Holy Spirit!
- lay your life down for Jesus

5.14 The work of the Holy Spirit

5.14.1 The Holy Spirit may teach us even before He is *in* us, by helping us as He dwells *with* us

John 14:16-21 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever, even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

5.14.2 Teaching us, leading us into the Truth

John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (ESV)

I John 2:27 - But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. (ESV)

5.14.3 The fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit are the fruit of Christ's Spirit. Christ's law is not contrary to the fruit of the Spirit. We must also seek to fulfill Christ's law (though it is the righteousness of Christ Himself which justifies us before God).

1Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)

The fruit of the Spirit while lawful we want to encourage. If someone acts in the fruit of the Spirit, and another person is offended then they should apply the law of Christ when they realise their actions are harming their family in Christ and they should stop those actions. But at the same time, the person has maybe done nothing wrong while acting in the fruit of the Spirit. This goes both ways. So when a person acts innocently with the fruit of the Spirit but causes their family in Christ injury in doing so, they should stop doing the thing which causes them injury, and seek to love them by doing no harm to our brother or sister, even if at first our actions seemed to us to be good:

Romans 14:21 - It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. (ESV)

To continue those actions knowing it was harming your neighbour in Christ would be to lack "love" or "self-control".

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

Love is:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

We shouldn't punish acting while exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit, made with pure motivations, and place arbitrary laws against what is good, motivated by fear, by banning the actions every time someone is offended.

But it seems that sometimes with pure motivations, we can still offend others, and there needs to be room to "back off":

Romans 14:17-22 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for **peace and for mutual upbuilding**. *Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.* Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. **It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.** The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. **Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.** (ESV)

But causing offense without warning isn't strictly the same thing as causing crime. Jesus continued to offend some people and be loved by others but he committed no crime:

Matthew 11:6 - And blessed is the one who is not offended by me. (ESV)

youtube.com: Girls told to remove Christian crosses at religious school hit out against staff @time: 1 min

Nobody has a right [to be not] offended, especially to not be offended when other by other people exercising their normal rights in any liberal democracy. And what I want to say to all the girls at this school is wear your crosses if you have a cross turn up to school and wear that cross and send a message to other students and to teachers and to the school in general that this is a Christian School it is not a Marxist, woke school.

Luke 18:16 - But Jesus called them to him, saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Meanwhile in SA youtube.com: Nyanga High School - "His name is Yahweh" {@saschoolsgottalent}

Crossing other people's boundaries, though, when we know their boundaries, and knowing it may cause harm, though, is breaking Christ's law:

Exodus 8:26 - But Moses said, It would not be right to do so, for the offerings we shall sacrifice to the LORD our God are an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice offerings abominable to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not stone us? (ESV)

Romans 14:21 - It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. (ESV)

We should seek to love everyone, even our enemies, but not to always agree with our enemies, but the love we have for our enemies should always be Christ's love and not "the devil's definition of love".

I also think it is loving to not inhibit the gospel message.

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

We should always love with Christ's love:

Romans 12:20 - To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. (ESV)

Even if it becomes anathema to speak the truth and to live out the truth, I would still speak God's truth and act with Christ's love to the end for the sake of truth:

Matthew 24:9-13 - Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

We don't want to cultivate what is opposite to the fruit of the Spirit; things such as hate, depression, fear and anxiety, being inconsiderate, abusiveness, unwholesomeness, faithlessness, abrasiveness and quick-temperedness by punishing people who are prompted by the Holy Spirit to act.

But if we are afraid we should seek to have a genuine affection for God, loving Him with our whole heart, and seek to obey Jesus and build one another up in love, and that should cast out fear:

I John 4:18 - There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (ESV)

Romans 14:17-20 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. **Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.** Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. (ESV)

Christ's Spirit is selfless and bears one another's burdens, and considers others more significant than themselves:

Philippians 2:3 - Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but **in humility count others more significant than yourselves.** (ESV)

youtube.com: Hope and the Fruit of Love @time: 10 min 14 sec One of the great obstacles to love is fear – that if you pay the price of love, you won't get the flower of the world.

I mean the flowers of the world are very pretty. Money is pretty, and power is pretty, and sex is pretty, and reputation is pretty, and leisure is pretty, and comfort is pretty.

The world has lots to offer. There's a lot of flowers out there.

There are grassy meadows in the world that are tremendously attractive, and this feeling rises up in our hearts: If you pay the price to love you won't get as many flowers, you won't get as much grass.

And therefore we resist loving.

If you endure wrong meekly, if you renounce boasting, don't call attention to yourselves, if we spend time and energy supplying the needs of others without fretting over our own, if we risk making necessary reproofs that are almost surely to be interpreted as unloving, if we receive reproofs without animosity and defensiveness, if we cover a multitude of sins and put away our list of grievances, if we rejoice when others prosper while we don't, if we bless those who curse us, and do good to those who despise us, if we love each other earnestly from the heart, the fear is we won't get any flowers; our grassy Fields will turn brown on us.

And the way we are freed from that fear is to hear God say, "the flower falls and the grass fades but my word that gave you life lasts forever and leads to an inheritance that is unfading, imperishable, undefiled, kept in heaven for you. You are free go ahead pay the price. It doesn't matter what they think. It doesn't matter whether you get the flowers. If you're born of God you are alive and you will last forever.

Amen.

In order to avoid another situation with the pandemic where there was a lack of love (people making decisions on fear instead of on love) like the one in 2020-2021, we should not cease to maintain freedom, faith in God, peace, forgiveness, and love for people. Let our decisions be based on love and not fear:

I Corinthians 16:14 - Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:7 - for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
(ESV)

II Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
(NASB)

II Timothy 1:7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (KJV)

youtube.com: Michael Ramsden - 14-15 December 2024 {@VisionChristianMediaAUS} @time: 37 sec
Michael has been engaging with people of all backgrounds and cultures about questions of faith for over 20 years, and has been invited to lecture in various settings including the White House in Washington DC and NATO HQ in Brussels in Europe.

youtube.com: Michael Ramsden - 14-15 December 2024 {@VisionChristianMediaAUS} @time: 24 min 1 sec

And I think as we think of the current world we're in dominated by news of COVID-19, the reason I think so many people around the world are struggling is that for many this is the first time we've collectively faced the issue of our own mortality, and we don't know how to respond in the light of it, so our response has mainly been fear. Now obviously we need to be responsible in light of everything that's going on and what's happening, but we shouldn't be driven by fear. And even the Biblical idea of isolating yourself, you know you read it in Leviticus 13, if you have an infectious disease put yourself out of the camp. But that's not out of fear for yourself, that's out of love for your neighbor, because I don't want to pass this on to anyone else, my people, this is what I'll do, whereas a lot of our response so far has been driven very much by fear.

On the topic of COVID, Dr. John Campbell who I recall was level-minded throughout the pandemic has done a presentation on the shroud of Turin which I have been watching this morning <2025-05-10 Sat>.

Watch youtube.com: Shroud studies {@Campbellteaching}

Without certifying the authenticity of the shroud of Turin, something I find consistent with the way I was born-again is the spear wound on the right side. It's consistent with my own testimony.

Brand new creation, born-again of the Spirit:

- 1 I was born-again of the Spirit on the first day of Nisan on 2 April 2022.
- 2 During the day in the afternoon I took a nap on my bed and woke up to observing
- 3 my regenerated spirit man. It looked like a body made of blue
- 4 light/electricity/fire with a dark bit around the bottom right of my rib cage.
- 5 I'm unsure if that relates to Adam's rib taken or to the spear in Jesus' side.
- 6 Anyway, in this state I called out to Jesus to save me because I didn't know
- 7 what was going on, then I returned to observing the world through my physical
- 8 body. To this day, I feel this spirit/fire/light energising my body/soul, so
- 9 it's like being born-again with a second body literally.

5.15 Becoming a servant, humbling oneself and following Jesus is what we should do

A religious spirit is:

- not being a servant
- neglects the weightier matters of the law: **justice** and **mercy** and **faithfulness**
- an emphasis on outward appearances over inner transformation
- hypocrisy
- uses the law as a beating tool on other people

- they use the law superficially
- but are **lawless in reality**
 - their relationship with God is really busted up - not being faithful to God

True religion:

- focuses on purifying the heart and soul, and obeying God's commandments in truth, accountable to God
- as far as the law is concerned
 - externally prioritises justice, mercy and faithfulness
 - inwardly tries to maintain a holy heart, and a relationship with God
- serving Jesus
- avoids judging people with the law to cut people down, but encourages people to be accountable to God with it
- bear one another's burdens

We're under the law of Christ, and that shouldn't be a heavy burden:

Matthew 23:4 - They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

You **must** obey Jesus, and that is choosing **light** and choosing **agape love** towards God and people and not towards the world or worldly things:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

Matthew 23:11-33 - The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides, who say, If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath. You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath. You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have **neglected** the weightier matters of the law: **justice and mercy and faithfulness.** These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be

clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are **full of hypocrisy and lawlessness**. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, saying, If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets. Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? (ESV)

We must keep and accept the precepts of God over the precepts of men:

Mark 7:6-9 - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.** And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (ESV)

This passage is condemning submitting to **worldly / human** precepts and imploring us to submit to God's precepts. It's not condemning God's precepts but imploring us to put to death what is against God's precepts:

Colossians 2:20-23,3:1-6 - If with Christ you **died to the elemental spirits of the world**, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to **human precepts** and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you have been **raised with Christ, seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** (ESV)

Watch youtube.com: HUMILITY to receive CORRECTION so you can GROW in Christ. {@MarkHemans}

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

5.16 I believe that I should try as hard as I can to enter via the narrow gate

5.16.1 Narrow is the gate and hard is the way that leads to life

I think this shows the strait and narrow way involves repentance and sanctification:

Matthew 7:13-16 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Luke 13:24 - Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

The Way is Jesus Christ - believing in and becoming obedient to Jesus Christ.

It's being begotten as a servant of God, a disciple of Jesus, one of Jesus' sheep.

Believe:

I John 4:9 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

Obey:

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

Believe and obey and treasure God and people:

In treasuring Jesus' words, keeping them, guarding them, observing them, in Him the agape (treasuring, valuing love) has truly been perfected. Having Jesus' teachings in us clearly should result in us walking as He did:

I John 2:5-6 - but whoever keeps (**5083. téreó**) His word (G3056 logos), in him the love (G26 agape) of God (G2316 theos) has truly been perfected (G5048 teleioo). By this we know (G1097 ginosko) that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

Jude 1:21 - keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

5.16.2 Wide gate

Either of:

- Pursuing holiness without submitting to the righteousness of God
 - This is denying Jesus and becoming guilty of sin by denying the atonement
 - **John 15:22-23** - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also.
- Pursuing justification without becoming obedient to God
 - This is being cast out and withering and being thrown into the fire
 - **John 15:5-6** - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

A person needs to have obedient, believing faith in Jesus Christ to take the narrow gate.

These people did not believe and obey Jesus, and produced bad fruit:

Matthew 7:13-16 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Those in the following example that prophesied here who cast out demons in Jesus' name and did many mighty works in Jesus' name,

- didn't have God as their #1 agape love, treasuring Jesus and His words, and
- didn't in faith keep and obey Jesus' words including commandments, and

- didn't have a relationship with Jesus involving doing Jesus' words
- **didn't end up coming into the will of God to do their works out of God's will rather than their own will**
 - they were probably not really being truly believing and obedient of the words Jesus spoke:

Matthew 7:21-24 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. **Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**

Was there *ever* a time that we have loved Jesus and were known by Jesus? I wouldn't test Jesus on this regarding absolute minimums for salvation / entering the Kingdom of God. I think we need to persevere in the faith, and hold our faith in Jesus and keep His commandments for confidence at the day of judgement:

Matthew 7:22-23 - On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (ESV)

We need to allow God's will to be done in us:

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

We need to endure in faith:

Matthew 7:13-14 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Paul says if anyone loves God they're known by God. And John says if anyone claims to have come to know Him (Christ) but doesn't keep His commandments they do not tell the truth. Jesus said the one who loves Him is the one who keeps His commandments. So we come to know Him when we abide in His love. He loved us first, laying His life down for us, and we ought to do the same for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Love everyone, sure, but those who are in Christ are one spirit with the Lord Jesus. We must love one another in Christ with the same love Jesus showed us. Jesus commanded that whoever loves God must also love their brother. Some people might be all big on stuff like the "benefits" of Christianity, i.e. casting out demons etc. or being healed from physical infirmity, but wouldn't deny self to follow Jesus, haven't yet given up money as an idol - would just follow Jesus for more gains in this life without, say forgiving that brother of theirs who asked them for forgiveness, say, or really without coming to love the truth.

I think the reason that repentance and faith work together like this is because saving faith is a faith that loves the truth, as opposed to hates the truth, where mere 'belief' could be either love or hate for the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

We have to love God and hate sin:

John 3:14-19 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but

have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than (G3123 mallon, rather/more than, in preference to, instead of) light, because their deeds were evil. (KJV)

These people just sat around watching Jesus but didn't obey Him:

Luke 13:24-26 - Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, open to us, then he will answer you, I do not know where you come from. Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets. But he will say, I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!

We strive to enter through Jesus who is the door:

John 10:9-16 - I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

youtube.com: Strive to Enter or Believe to Enter?? Apparently the author of Hebrews believes that making every effort to labor to get into God's rest and believing in order to get into God's rest are not incompatible partners.

1 agónizomai: to contend for a prize, struggle

2 Original Word:

3 Part of Speech: Verb

4 Transliteration: agónizomai

5 Phonetic Spelling: (ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee)

6 Definition: to contend for a prize, struggle

7 Usage: I am struggling, striving (as in an athletic contest or warfare); I contend, as with an ad-

Matthew 7:13-14 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. narrow, small) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (ESV)

Luke 13:24-30 - Strive (75. agónizomai) to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, open to us, then he will answer you, I do not know where you come from. Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets. But he will say, I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil (93. adikia)! In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last. (ESV)

- 1 adikia: injustice, unrighteousness
- 2 Original Word: ἀδίκια, ἀδίκησις
- 3 Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine
- 4 Transliteration: adikia
- 5 Phonetic Spelling: (ad-ee-kee'-ah)
- 6 Definition: injustice, unrighteousness
- 7 Usage: injustice, unrighteousness, hurt.

We must hear His voice today:

Hebrews 3:7-11 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways. As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. (ESV)

Psalm 95's today is *now*. Today is the day to strive to enter God's rest:

Psalms 95:6-11 - Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. For forty years I loathed that generation and said, They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways. Therefore I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. (ESV)

youtube.com: Striving Faith: Few Pursue What Jesus Commands {Luke 13:24} - Tim Conway @time: 3:00

This is no small matter. All sorts of professing Christians look to enter in based on yesterday's victories or yesterday's whatever. And they procrastinating expect to somehow live for Christ tomorrow. This writer is saying that neither of those types of Christianity work as far as striving after God's rest. The Christianity of the Bible is the *today* kind of Christianity.

It was unbelief which led to these people's sin of idolatry and covetousness which prevented them from entering into God's rest:

Hebrews 3:7-15 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways. As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:7-11 - again he appoints a certain day, Today, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

It was **idolatry** that was the disobedience which prevented these from entering into God's rest:

I Corinthians 10:1-14 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test**, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (ESV)

youtube.com: There's a River of Life - The Fisherfolk - Praise with Lyrics {@timetofavourzion3127}

There's a land of rest that we may enter now, Freed from all our works and freed from Satan's power, Just resting in the Lord each moment and each hour. There's a land of rest that we may enter now.

If you keep Jesus' commandments then the Spirit of Truth will come to you, and help you, and be in you. If we obey Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us, even before He's inside us:

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will **keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

5.16.3 Obedience to Jesus has everything to do with receiving Him, and receiving Salvation

Hebrews 3:18 - And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? (ESV)

Ezekiel 33:31 - And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain. (ESV)

Jesus' sheep follow Jesus. Jesus knows them:

John 10:25-28 - Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. But you do not believe (G4100 pisteuo) because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow (G190 akoloutheo) Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. (NASB)

1 : 190 akoloutheo ak-ol-oo-theh'-o

2
3 from 1 (as a particle of union) and keleuthos (a road); properly, to
4 be in the same way with, i.e. to accompany (specially, as a
5 disciple):--follow, reach.
6 see GREEK for 1

The gospel teaches us to serve the Lord Jesus. Those who teach others that the gospel does not, are deceivers, and they do not obey Jesus.

Matthew 7:16 - You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? (ESV)

I Peter 5:14 - Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

The gospel teaches us to serve the Lord Jesus.

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

Romans 16:17-20 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For **such persons do not serve our Lord Christ**, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

II Chronicles 7:14 - if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (ESV)

II Corinthians 13:14 - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (ESV)

5.16.4 Disobedience

Let us continue following and obeying Jesus, and not turn back:

John 6:66 - After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

Luke 9:62 - Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Judas betrayed Jesus after being chosen:

John 6:70-71 - Jesus answered them, Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil. He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

Hebrews 6:4-8 - For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in **the Holy Spirit**, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: God's Delight in Obedience

I Samuel 15:22-23 - And Samuel said, Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

5.16.5 The way is easy that leads to destruction

Matthew 7:13-16 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

I'm not the judge. But Jesus's words which He left us will be the judge.

5.16.6 Narrow gate

II Peter 1:5-10 - For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was **cleansed from his former sins**. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:11 - Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

Luke 13:24 - Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (ESV)

I Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (ESV)

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

Asking Jesus to save me:

I can only say that salvation was a total gift for me, an unrighteous sinner. But I'm still working it out.

5.16.7 The narrow gate vitally requires submitting to God's righteousness. We need God's forgiveness and His justification that comes through faith

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the **righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law**, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the **righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe**. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 10:3 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. (ESV)

Like the following example of the tax collector, we must submit to God's righteousness:

Luke 18:9-14 - He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Jesus is the Lamb of God. We must accept God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus:

John 1:29 - The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

God's righteousness is received by faith - through obedience to the gospel:

- **Romans 3:25** - whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (ESV)

We must receive atonement for sin through faith.

The tax collector in the story above has an obedient and believing heart. The tax collector has faith. It's not our own righteousness which is sufficient, but Jesus Christ's righteousness imputed onto us when we are **in** Him. We must have faith in Jesus.

5.16.8 We have to receive the Kingdom like a child. Don't resist Jesus or His teachings - follow Jesus

I accept that I need Jesus to have mercy on me. Because my own righteousness isn't good enough. I want to obey Jesus for the rest of my life, and live for Him, and I trust Him because I believe His gospel. I know that **the Holy Spirit** goes to those who obey Him.

Luke 18:15-17 - Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.

And I'm still trusting and having faith in Jesus Christ even up until now. So while through obedience to Jesus we are saved, Jesus is still the source of that salvation:

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him.

Jesus gave us teachings:

Luke 12:33-34 - Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (ESV)

The Apostle Paul taught these teachings, and taught people to remember Jesus' teachings:

Acts 20:35 - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of **the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.** (ESV)

And the Holy Spirit helps us to follow His teaching:

Luke 24:49 - And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. (ESV)

Those who seek to know Jesus, following His commandments, may receive His Spirit:

John 14:16-21 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever, even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

5.16.9 We have to believe in and obey Jesus. We all fall short but we still must have faith in Jesus

He is the Light, and He wants to give us the light of life but we have to allow Him to lead us:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

We have to obey Jesus and take heed to all that He has said. Those who don't take heed to His words walk in darkness:

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.

Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is the Lamb of God.

We must receive the redemption that is in Christ Jesus through faith:

Romans 3:22-25 - the righteousness of God through faith (G4102 pistis) in Jesus Christ for all who believe (G4100 pisteuo). For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

The redemption in Christ Jesus is a gift, and is a substitutionary atonement that is received through faith in Jesus.

As far as glory goes, or sharing in Jesus' holiness, I think in part this works like a blood transfusion, that should be received by faith, faith which includes the belief of faith and the obedience of faith, such as obedience to the discipline of Christ, that should yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness:

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

We should be sanctified by the Truth, as we trust in God, trust in Jesus, trust in God's Word:

John 17:8-26 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer

in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

We're not being justified by our works - we've already been redeemed, and we are justified by faith in Jesus, but we are also sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ. God is the one who justifies:

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus**. (ESV)

We must be obedient to God, we must be obedient to Jesus, repenting and following His commandments to share His holiness:

Hebrews 12:9-11 - Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it **yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness** to those who have been **trained** by it. (ESV)

We're not being justified by our works - we've already been redeemed, but we do works out of love for Jesus, and out of ongoing faith, ongoing obedience:

Titus 3:8 - The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that **those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works**. These things are excellent and profitable for people. (ESV)

We accept that God justifies us, given we place our faith in Jesus, and that means trusting Jesus. Then we continue following Jesus out of faithful obedience.

All of these I believe belong under the umbrella of faith, not works:

- Taking communion is not 'dead works'. It's obedience / walking in obedient faith.
- Getting baptised is not 'dead works'. It's obedience / walking in obedient faith.

- Obeying Jesus Christ's commandments are not 'dead works'. It's obedience / walking in obedient faith.

Faith presses on, faithful to Jesus, walking in the manner which Jesus walked - even to spend the rest of the time on earth being obedient to Jesus to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection, becoming like Him in His death (i.e. being faithful to God, stopping sin, exercising righteousness, becoming a scapegoat, even to death like the Apostles, sharing in His sufferings, living has He lived) and His resurrection:

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

God will be the judge of who has had faith in Jesus; who has obeyed Him and who has trusted in Him and who has made Him their Lord and who has accepted Him as their Saviour.

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Hebrews 10:10-17 - And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.

Hebrews 10:26 - For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

God please forgive and heal us.

5.16.10 All judgement has been given to Jesus

We must love Jesus and follow Him. Jesus is the judge. Our obedience to Jesus matters. Because the righteousness of God is received through faith. We are implored to strive to follow Jesus to our best ability:

John 5:17-29 - But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)

5.16.11 The gospel has to be obeyed

Read gbtseminary.org: Cheap Grace: Bonhoeffer and the Cost of Discipleship - Grace Bible Theological Seminary

II Thessalonians 1:4-8 - Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting **vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.**

I Peter 4:12-19 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Faith in God is obedient. Faith in Jesus is obedient:

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

While people may debate whether faith is exactly obedience, we must conclude that there is at least some overlap. Faith is obedient because it's commanded. True obedience to Jesus qualifies as loving Jesus:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

It might also be said that true obedience to Jesus can only be done in faith.

We know that true faith is obedient to the commandment of God. To say that faith isn't obedient is heresy:

Romans 16:25-27 - Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (ESV)

Jesus wants us to keep His commandments. If a person keeps Jesus' commandments and abides by His teachings then that surely shows they have agape love for Jesus and I don't believe a person can have agape love for Jesus without faith in Him. Jesus has authority to command the wind and the waves and even demons but the type of obedience I think Jesus wants from us is to keep His Law in unity of faith, truth and love:

II Corinthians 10:5-7 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. (ESV)

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Titus 1:9 - He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (ESV)

The gospel of Jesus is in accordance to sound doctrine, and being lawless and disobedient is contrary to sound doctrine:

I Timothy 1:5-11 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to **sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted**. (ESV)

We renounce ungodliness and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age:

Titus 2:9-14 - Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

Whilst I like to make a distinction between the words obedience and 'works', the following verse illustrates that there is some overlap between faith and good works, and thus faith and obedience:

James 2:18 - But someone will say, You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Where there is perfect belief, I think there is perfect obedience. i.e. if we hold firm to belief in Jesus, keeping and believing His sayings and obey Jesus through testing, we have eternal life and will see life:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheō*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (*pisteuōn*): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. *katechó* Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us**; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve**. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

I am confident also that if we hold firm to obedience in Jesus keeping and obeying His sayings and believe Jesus through testing, we have eternal life and will see life:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

Bonhoeffer seems to have a very similar view to my own Though we are not saved by our works, Bonhoeffer believes that there is a great peril in ascribing “chronological distinctions” between belief (faith) and obedience as some often do. He believes that if we divorce the two (faith/obedience) we will inevitably overlook their essential unity to our detriment. **You cannot have one without the other.** Bonhoeffer says it like this, “*Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes.*”

Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:48 - Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

This is talking about loving fellow human beings:

Didache Chapter 1 - ... Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you. For what reward is there for loving those who love you? Do not the Gentiles do the same? But love those who hate you, and you shall not have an enemy. ...

We still have enemies (that is, the forces of evil, satan and satan’s demons and his fallen angels, principalities, powers etc.):

I Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

Loving all people or forgiving them for wrongs against you doesn't mean approving of sin. Forgiveness involves letting go, not bearing a grudge and not pushing God to get justice (in the form of compensation/"making them cough up") for what you perceive as wrongs done against you, because agape love is "merciful". We should speak the truth:

Acts 24:16 - So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. (ESV)

Romans 12:20 - To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. (ESV)

We want others to come to the truth:

Acts 26:29 - And Paul said, Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains. (ESV)

Quote from Mari Mari Emmanuel So fear nothing, love everyone, but be firm when it comes to speaking the truth. Truth cannot be compromised. ... The one who is all love, He was sharper than a sword; When it came to holding the Truth, fighting for the Truth, He stood firm, never gave way, never compromised. Now that is love. If you truly love someone, wouldn't you want them to be living in the Truth? If you truly love the person, you will tell them, "This is right... This is wrong..."

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV)

5.16.12 God will be the judge of who has had faith in Jesus, and who has obeyed Him. I wouldn't take obedience lightly

Luke 20:13-18 - Then the owner of the vineyard said, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him. But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours. And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others. When they heard this, they said, Surely not! But he looked directly at them and said, What then is this that is written: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.

5.16.13 Jesus was extremely humble here. Likewise, we should be able to recognise that we need Him as our Lord looking over us

Also, Jesus didn't actually deny that He is good:

Luke 18:18-19 - And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

Isaiah 64:6 - We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (ESV)

Here also, Jesus asks a question regarding something without denying it as Peter was indeed to die a Martyr's death:

John 13:37-38 - Peter said to him, Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you. Jesus answered, Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times. (ESV)

John 21:18-29 - Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go. (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, Follow me. Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said, Lord, who is it that is going to betray you? When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, Lord, what about this man? Jesus said to him, If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me! So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me; (ESV)

Fox's Book of Martyrs is not Scripture, but here is what it says regarding the Apostle Peter's martyrdom:

Fox's Book of Martyrs (Author: Foxe, John, 1516-1587. A historical account written in the mid-16th century)

Among many other saints, the blessed apostle Peter was condemned to death, and crucified, as some do write, at Rome; albeit some others, and not without cause, do doubt thereof. Hegesippus saith that Nero sought matter against Peter to put him to death; which, when the people perceived, they entreated Peter with much ado that he would fly the city. Peter, through their importunity at length persuaded, prepared himself to avoid. But, coming to the gate, he saw the Lord Christ come to meet him, to whom he, worshipping, said, "Lord, whither dost Thou go?" To whom He answered and said, "I am come again to be crucified." By this, Peter, perceiving his suffering to be understood, returned into the city. Jerome saith that he was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward, himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was.

Nevertheless, we should follow Jesus.

5.16.14 Let us serve Jesus Christ in truth, and have confidence

I John 3:21 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

Hebrews 3:14 - For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

I John 4:17 - *By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment,* because as he is so also are we in this world.

5.16.15 We must recognise that where our efforts to obey falls short, Jesus's blood covers us. But we must still have the heart to make Jesus our Lord and King, and be following Him

But we must be walking in the light, just as He is in the light.

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

So the blood of Jesus covers us while we are following Him.

The Apostle John's children/disciples were walking in love while walking in the truth, and rejecting offerings from Gentiles who were not walking in the truth:

III John 1:4-8 - I have no greater joy than to hear that **my children are walking in the truth**. Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who **testified to your love before the church**. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out **for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles**. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. (ESV)

I really affirm Christa's message:

youtube.com: THE BATTLE IS IN YOUR MIND!! If you're asking the Lord, "Will you cleanse my will?

Will you cleanse my emotions, my heart?

"Cleanse my body with the blood of Jesus. I plead the blood of Jesus over 'so and so'. I plead the blood of Jesus over their mind, over their heart, heal them."

You know, if you start saying this it might really help you, okay, because it's helped me. It has helped me tremendously. And just to encourage you all, just renounce and cancel stuff from the enemy. close those doors, okay.

We got to lead a life of repentance and when you do that friends you are more you are more protected, and you are more covered.

I John 1:6-9

But if you're over there and you're not coming out of agreement with sin if you are not asking the Lord to forgive you of your sin we get be become dirty we become spiritually dirty. And we want to become spiritually clean because when we are spiritually clean we can hear the voice of God.

II Corinthians 7:1

When we are spiritually clean we can see the things of the lord, we can hear things, and he can speak to us more.

We can hear him more when we are spiritually clean.

Read desiringgod.org: Detox Your Soul | Desiring God

Walking in the light is about walking in the Truth and God's guidance, God's will for us, God's instruction for us:

Psalms 43:3 - Send out your light and your truth; let them **lead me**; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! (ESV)

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (ESV)

The ones in the light agape their family in Christ:

I John 2:9 - Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. (ESV)

The ones in the light practice the truth. Confessing the truth, even the truth of when we have sinned, that is something which people who walk in the light (practice the truth) do:

I John 1:6-9 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

We should be cleansing ourselves of every defilement of body, and **spirit** with faith, the Word of God and the Spirit of God:

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body (4561. *sark*) and spirit (4151. *pneuma*), bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

God cleanses our hearts as we practice our faith in Him:

Acts 15:9 - and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

We walk in the light (God's light, truth) in trust, faith, obedience:

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

We should be seeking Him out with our heart:

Jeremiah 29:13 - You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, (ESV)

Proverbs 8:17 - I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. (ESV)

Psalms 14:2 - The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. (ESV)

Psalms 24:3-4 - Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has **clean hands and a pure heart**, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:22 - let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our **hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water. (ESV)

Jesus can see it and Jesus can heal the heart - sprinkled clean as Hebrews 10:22 says:

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds. (ESV)

When I read Jeremiah 17:9 or Romans 3:3-20, I only think of it as "falling short", not as "total depravity". I believe people can do good and evil. But without the atonement we can't be made perfect. This is the way I believe that Paul the Apostle also viewed it:

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

We must do good. Christians must do good. Those who are self-seeking and do not obey the Truth, who do not obey Jesus, there will be wrath and fury:

Romans 2:5-11 - But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;** but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. **There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.** (ESV)

Even after we have been healed by Jesus, and also as we are *being* healed by Jesus, we must turn away from evil and do good. We must obey Jesus rather than obey sin:

John 5:11-14 - But he answered them, The man who healed me, that man said to me, Take up your bed, and walk. They asked him, Who is the man who said to you, Take up your bed and walk? Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you. (ESV)

5.16.16 Do not condemn others. Speak the truth and leave judgement to the Judge

We are allowed to say that the world's works are evil:

John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. (ESV)

John 16:23 - Whoever hates me hates my Father also. (ESV)

John 8:16-18 - Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.

Luke 6:37 - , Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; (ESV)

Jesus is also extremely merciful to the woman who was brought before Jesus:

John 8:10-11 - Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more. (ESV)

5.16.17 Jesus Christ *is* the word of life, Jesus Christ *is* the eternal life

I John 1:1-3 - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (ESV)

That is why we must believe in Him and obey His commandments:

I John 5:3-5 - For this is the love of God, that **we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.** And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?** (ESV)

5.16.18 Simply tell the truth from God. We must not reject Jesus

John 8:21-24 - So he said to them again, I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come. So the Jews said, Will he kill himself, since he says, Where I am going, you cannot come? He said to them, You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.

We must follow Jesus for eternal life:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Jesus knows Father God, and Jesus keeps His word. Likewise, we must follow Jesus and keep **His** word. Jesus is obedient to Father God. We **must** be obedient to Jesus Christ:

John 8:55-58 - But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.

John 10:27-29 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

5.16.19 Jesus is Almighty God's Son and is sitting in Power next to His Father

Jesus obeyed His Father - He willed to do His Father's will:

Luke 22:41-42 - And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done. (ESV)

John 6:38 - For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. (ESV)

Jesus obeyed Father God perfectly and became the source of salvation to all who obey Him:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

John 17:19 - And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)

We serve Jesus so Jesus is our Master:

John 13:16 - Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

Serving Jesus brings Father God glory:

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

Jesus being in the form of God took the form of the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:5-7 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (ESV)

II Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (ESV)

Jesus was appointed by God, learned obedience and made a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek:

Hebrews 5:5-10 - So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, You are my Son, today I have begotten you; as he says also in another place, You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

Jesus is One with Almighty God and their will is in perfect alignment. Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience to Father God:

John 10:30 - I and the Father are one.

John 5:30 - I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. (ESV)

Father God has been working through Jesus, His Son:

John 14:8-10 - Philip said to him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. (ESV)

Even throughout His ministry on earth, He had power over nature - the power of Father God:

Mark 4:35-41 - On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, Let us go across to the other side. And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing? And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, Peace! Be still! And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith? And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him? (ESV)

John 17:4 - I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. (ESV)

John 17:7 - Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. (ESV)

Matthew 28:16-20 - Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

Revelation of John 3:12 - The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (ESV)

Father God keeps us in His name so that we may be one with Them:

John 17:10-11 - All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. (ESV)

By posing the question, Jesus doesn't deny that he is good. But we agree, affirming what Jesus has spoken that God is good:

Mark 10:18 - And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. (ESV)

Mathetes to Diognetus For, who of men at all understood before His coming what God is? Do you accept of the vain and silly doctrines of those who are deemed trustworthy philosophers? ... But such declarations are simply the startling and erroneous utterances of deceivers; and no man has either seen Him, or made Him known, but He has revealed Himself. And He has manifested Himself through faith, to which alone it is given to behold God. For God, the Lord and Fashioner of all things, who made all things, and assigned them their several positions, proved Himself not merely a friend of mankind, but also long-suffering [in His dealings with them.] Yea, He was always of such a character, and still is, and will ever be, kind and good, and dispassionate (free from wrath), and true, and the only one who is [absolutely] good; and He formed in His mind a great and unspeakable conception, which He communicated to His Son alone. As long, then, as He held and preserved His own wise counsel in concealment, He appeared to neglect us, and to have no care over us. But after He revealed and laid open, through His beloved Son, the things which had been prepared from the beginning, He conferred every blessing all at once upon us, so that we should both share in His benefits, and see and be active [in His service]. Who of us would ever have expected these things? He was aware, then, of all things in His own mind, along with His Son, according to the relation subsisting between them.

I believe there is only one good shepherd, and that is Jesus Christ, Immanuel (God with us, God incarnate, and not merely in the flesh, but the Word became flesh):

John 10:14-15 - I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. (ESV)

I Peter 2:24-25 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

John 1:14 - And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

Jesus makes intercession for those who draw near to God through Him:

Hebrews 7:25 - Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost **those who draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Likewise, **the Holy Spirit** is Almighty God:

Isaiah 48:16-17 - Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there. And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and **his Spirit**. Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. (ESV)

Acts 5:3-4 - But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have **not lied to men but to God**. (ESV)

Matthew 3:16-17 - And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (ESV)

Immanuel or Emmanuel is a Hebrew name that appears in Isaiah 7:14 as a sign that God will protect the House of David:

Matthew 1:21-23 - She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name **Immanuel (which means, God with us)**. (ESV)

Matthew 1:24-25 - When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (ESV)

Isaiah 7:10-20 - Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, **I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test**. And he said, Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, **the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel**. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to **refuse the evil and choose the good**. For before the boy knows how to **refuse the evil and choose the good**, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria. In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures. In that day the Lord will shave with a razor that is hired beyond the River—with the king of Assyria—the head and the hair of the feet, and it will sweep away the beard also. (ESV)

Romans 12:9-21 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

Genesis 2:18 - Then the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. (ESV)

Quote from Billy Graham Jesus said, "Seek Jesus ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Put God first. God will take care of the rest. But if you put money and pleasure and power first you're going to be deceived, you're going to come up empty, you're going to come up short-handed.

Philippians 1:9-10 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, (ESV)

This quite clearly shows that the Truth is Jesus Christ is Almighty God and God is Father, Son (Jesus Christ, His Eternal Word, made flesh) and Holy Spirit:

Zechariah 12:10 - And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, **on him whom they have pierced**, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (ESV)

Colossians 2:9 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, (ESV)

youtube.com: The Historic Baptist View of the Nicene Creed @time: 10 min 4 sec Affirming the Nicene Creed has been a historic uncontroversial Baptist conviction. What is happening today is that some Baptists are falling away a little bit from our own roots and so we need reform.

I affirm the Nicene creed wholeheartedly:

1 We believe in one God,
2 the Father almighty,
3 maker of heaven and earth,
4 of all things visible and invisible.
5
6 And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
7 the only-begotten Son of God,
8 begotten from the Father before all ages,
9 God from God,
10 Light from Light,
11 true God from true God,
12 begotten, not made;
13 of the same essence as the Father.
14 Through him all things were made.
15 For us and for our salvation
16 he came down from heaven;
17 he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
18 and was made human.
19 He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
20 he suffered and was buried.
21 The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
22 He ascended to heaven
23 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
24 He will come again with glory
25 to judge the living and the dead.
26 His kingdom will never end.

27
28 And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
29 the Lord, the giver of life.
30 He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
31 and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
32 He spoke through the prophets.
33 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
34 We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
35 We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
36 and to life in the world to come. Amen.

AMEN!!

I affirm the Apostles' creed wholeheartedly:

1 I believe in God, the Father almighty,
2 creator of heaven and earth.
3 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
4 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
5 and born of the virgin Mary.
6 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
7 was crucified, died, and was buried;
8 he descended to hell.
9 The third day he rose again from the dead.
10 He ascended to heaven
11 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
12 From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
13
14 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
15 the holy catholic* church,
16 the communion of saints,
17 the forgiveness of sins,
18 the resurrection of the body,
19 and the life everlasting. Amen.
20
21 *that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places

AMEN!!

II Corinthians 13:14 - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: "Agnus Dei" with Michael W Smith & the First Dallas Choir & Orchestra

Hebrews 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Jesus proceeded forth from Father God, and returned to Father God:

John 16:28 - I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is with us in Spirit:

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

Jesus' Spirit may be inside us!

Galatians 4:4-9 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

Jesus is sitting in power:

Hebrews 1:13 - And to which of the angels has he ever said, Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?

The Holy Spirit is a Person:

John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (ESV)

If the Holy Spirit dwells in you, you are in the Spirit, not in the flesh:

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

Holy Spirit has emotions:

Isaiah 63:10 - But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. (ESV)

The Spirit of God **is** God although He belongs to God.

Holy Spirit speaks:

II Samuel 23:2-4 - The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth. (ESV)

Acts 8:26-35 - Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, Go over and join this chariot. So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, Do you understand what you are reading? And he said, How can I, unless someone guides me? And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his

humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth. And the eunuch said to Philip, About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else? Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. (ESV)

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 *homologeó*, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 *homologeó*, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

Father God, the LORD, God Almighty the Judge of all the earth has a form:

John 5:37-38 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. (ESV)

Genesis 18:1-5 - And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant. So they said, Do as you have said. (ESV)

Genesis 18:25 - Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just? (ESV)

Not only does Father God have children, but Jesus is His Only-Begotten Son:

Deuteronomy 14:1 - You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead. (ESV)

youtube.com: What Makes Jesus UNIQUE Amongst The Sons of God? {@DRMSH} @time: 4 min 0 sec

No, no, Jesus is called the monogenēs (G3439) for a very specific reason; what makes Jesus unique among all other sons of God? He's Yahweh. He has the unique set of attributes of Yahweh. **He was the son who preexisted his birth.** Okay, **that one is the one that God sent to be an offering for sin.** None of the other ones, that one. So you can have multiple sons of God who are supernatural beings, that doesn't impinge on the uniqueness of Jesus anymore than it impinges on the uniqueness of Yahweh, because Jesus is the Son. Okay, Trinitarian Godhead thing.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only (G3439 *monogenés*) Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:17 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only (G3439 *monogenés*) son, (ESV)

youtube.com: What Makes Jesus UNIQUE Amongst The Sons of God? {@DRMSH} @time: 3 min 4 sec

Question; was Isaac, Abraham's only son? No, he'd already had a boy, Ishmael. In fact, Isaac wasn't even the firstborn. At least of all Abraham's sons. He's the firstborn of Sarah. But why would Isaac be called monogenēs? Why would Isaac be unique? It's because he was the son of Sarah by supernatural act of God and he was the inheritor of the covenant. None of Abraham's other sons could say that. Okay, what's the point? The point is that the term means unique, and we can see that in this parallel. This is why Isaac is specifically isolated, it doesn't mean the only one that exists.

[youtube.com: Why Does It Matter That Christ Was 'Begotten, Not Made'? {@desiringGod}](#) @time: 2

I think a compelling case can be made biblically from the first 14 verses of the Gospel of John. That phrase begotten not made is biblical. So John begins like this in the beginning was the word and the word was with god and the word was God. He (this word is a person) was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him was not anything made that was made.

That's verses 1 through 3 of John 1. And then he adds [in] verse 14: That Word, the Word, became flesh - so we're talking Jesus Christ - that Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen His glory, glory as of the Only (and the Old King James said, 'Only-Begotten' - i'll come back to that) Son. So what I'm focusing on here is *sonship* is introduced. What he called Word in verse 1, he called Son in verse 14. Son from the father full of grace and truth. Now, there's a good deal of dispute over whether the Greek term monogenés means Only Son or Only-Begotten Son. Now here's the catch, and I want all just ordinary run-of-the-mill faithful pastors and teachers to take heart, I don't think the truth of the doctrine of begotten not made depends on the translation of that verb. If it did, we would we would be in the middle of a dispute that continues. What is essential is that in the first three verses of this gospel the Word of God is said to be God and to be **with** God: In the beginning was the Word and the Word **was** God and the Word was **with** God, meaning you have **two** Persons, God and the Word of God, and the second Person the Word of God is God and with God. And then it says that through the Word everything was made that was made, and that precise wording rules out the possibility that the Word of God itself was made because everything that is in the category of made or coming into being was in fact brought into being (was made) by the Word, which means He's not in that category, he was **not** made. Then verse 14 uses *sonship* language - quite apart from whether you say Only Son or Only-Begotten Son - He's Son. Sonship language to describe the relationship between God and the Word. Not only is the Word God, the Word is also Son of God, which means that what is said about the Word applies to the Son, and what was said about the word was he was not made.

So how then does the Son exist? As Son. Not as Father, but as Son. If we just stay with the language of Son and Father, the answer would be not made but begotten - that's what Sons are. Sons are begotten; That's what it means to be the son of a father. But this begetting of the Son clearly then is very unique, I mean it's really different because this Son, this Word had no beginning.

In the beginning was God, the Word of God was there and God was there and the two of them were eternally there. God was the Word, the Word was God, they had no beginning.

He was always there with God as God. So the text itself pushes us to the conclusion that the peculiar kind of begetting that we're talking about is an eternal begetting.

There never was a time when the Son did not exist and yet He is Son, and not Father. They're not reversible, ever in the New Testament. And the Christian church is right to argue that it is fitting to speak of this eternally existent Son who is God and yet is not the Father.

He has been eternally begotten by the Father - not coming into being but eternally begotten. So the point stressed but biblically and confessionally is that eternal begetting of the Son secures the Son's very same exact nature with the Father. That's the point of Hebrews 1:3. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature. Or Philippians 2:6. Though he was in the form of god he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

Now C.S. Lewis was really criticized for trying to make things understandable for ordinary people but most of us bless him for it, right? Right, and here's what he wrote: when you beget you beget something of the same kind as yourself. A man begets human babies, a beaver begets little beavers and a bird begets eggs which turn into little birds. But when you make you make something different a different kind from yourself, a bird makes a nest, a beaver builds a dam, a man makes a wireless set ... the Son is not a creature, He's not made, He's not different from the very essence and nature of God.

Colossians 1:19-20 - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (ESV)

[youtube.com: Why Does It Matter That Christ Was 'Begotten, Not Made'? {@desiringGod}](#) @time: 13

If the Son of God was made instead of being eternally begotten, in the very nature of God, we are still in our sins, and biblical salvation does not exist.

Hebrews 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (ESV)

This video is pretty awesome youtube.com: Did Anyone Believe in the Trinity Before Nicea?

Likewise, this video was also reassuring youtube.com: Was The Trinity Made Up By The Council Of Nicea? {@DRMSH}

youtube.com: The Real Saint Nicholas Did What? | Drive Thru History with Dave Stotts {@DriveThruHistory} I affirm the doctrine of the Trinity:

Thus, the Son is not one-third of the being of God; he is all of the being of God. The Father is not one-third of the being of God; he is all of the being of God. And likewise with the Holy Spirit. Thus, as Wayne Grudem writes, “When we speak of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together we are not speaking of any greater being than when we speak of the Father alone, the Son alone, or the Holy Spirit alone” (Ibid., 252).

There is only one God. If each Person of the Trinity is distinct and yet truly God, then should we conclude that there is more than one God? Obviously we cannot, for Scripture is clear that there is only one God: “There is no other God besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other”.

Zechariah 12:10 - And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on **me, on him whom they have pierced**, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (ESV)

Isaiah 45:21-22 - Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (ESV)

Isaiah 44:6-8 - Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any. (ESV)

Holy Spirit is Lord:

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from **the Lord who is the Spirit.** (ESV)

Jesus was with Father God in the beginning:

Proverbs 8:22-36 - The LORD (3068. Yhvh) possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the

fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man. And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death. (ESV)

John 1:1-2 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. (ESV)

Exodus 15:11 - Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? (ESV)

Deuteronomy 4:35 - To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 32:39 - See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. (ESV)

I Samuel 2:2 - There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (ESV)

I Kings 8:60 - that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. (ESV)

AMEN!!

Song youtube.com: He is Jehovah | by Betty Jean Robinson

Lyrics He is Jehovah, God of creation.; He is Jehovah, Lord God almighty.; The Balm of Gilead, the Rock of Ages.; He is Jehovah, the God that healeth thee.

He is the great I Am, the God of Abraham,; Jehovah Shalom, the God peace I am.; The God of Israel, the Everlasting One.; He is Jehovah, the God that healeth thee.

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah,; Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah.; He is Jehovah, Lord God almighty.; He is Jehovah, the God that healeth thee.

I am your Provider, Jehovah Jireh; God of salvation, God of Messiah; My Son who came to you, and testified of him.; He is Jehovah, the God that healeth thee.

Jehovah is God Almighty:

Exodus 6:3 - I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. (ESV)

Exodus 6:3 (Interlinear) and I appear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; as to My name Jehovah, I have not been known to them;

YHWH is Father God:

Matthew 6:9 - Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (ESV)

Revelation of John 4:11 - Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (ESV)

Ezekiel 36:23 - And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. (ESV)

Ezekiel 37:13-15 - And you shall know that I am the LORD (3068. Yvhv), when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD. The word of the LORD came to me: (ESV)

Psalms 111:9 - He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! (ESV)

Isaiah 64:8 (Interlinear) But now Yahweh our Father You [are] we [are] the clay and You our potter and the work of Your hand we all [are]

Isaiah 64:8 - But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. (ESV)

When God revealed His name, He also revealed what His name means:

Exodus 3:13-15 - Then Moses said to God, If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name? what shall I say to them? God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And he said, Say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel, The LORD (3068. Yvhv), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. (ESV)

Knowing God coincides with keeping His word. I think that if we're having trouble understanding the Godhead, we should try to keep God's word:

John 8:54-58 - Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God. But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, **but I do know him and I keep his word.** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. (ESV)

God wants us to know Him and obey Him and to do good as He has commanded:

Hosea 6:5-8 - Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth *as the light*. For **I desire steadfast love** and not sacrifice, the **knowledge of God** rather than burnt offerings. But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me. Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with blood. (ESV)

James 1:22 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (ESV)

Psalms 90:2 - Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (ESV)

John 1:18 (Interlinear) God no one has seen ever yet [the] only begotten God the [One] being in the bosom of the Father He has made [Him] known

Exodus 3:15 - God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel, The LORD (3068. Yvhv), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. **This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.** (ESV)

Jesus referred to God as Father:

Mark 14:36 - And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will. (ESV)

Father God put the Spirit of His Son into our heart:

Galatians 4:6 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! (ESV)

And we are adopted:

Romans 8:15-16 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (ESV)

Jesus also taught us to call the same God our God and Father:

John 20:17 - Jesus said to her, Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. (ESV)

We're supposed to do God's will. It's our food to do God's will:

John 12:27 - Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. (ESV)

John 4:34 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (ESV)

Jesus and Father God are very close:

John 12:28 - Father, glorify your name. Then a voice came from heaven: I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again. (ESV)

John 5:19 - So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. (ESV)

Jesus pre-existed before Creation:

John 1:3 - All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (ESV)

John 17:5,24 - And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (ESV)

5.16.20 Faith and law-keeping as a Christian

When it comes to following the law as a Christian, it's a matter of being accountable to God personally over our own commitment to law adherence while we follow and adhere to Jesus first and foremost, but we should be being sanctified by obedience to the Truth, so we should be becoming more holy and loving and coming to imitate Jesus.

Romans 7:4-6 - Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now **we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.** (ESV)

I think it's safe to say that the Mosaic law still has spiritual importance for Christians, and rather than necessarily being taken literally, the Mosaic Law is profitable (useful) for training in righteousness:

I Corinthians 9:9-10 - For it is written in the Law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. (ESV)

II Timothy 3:14-17 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

We pursue righteousness while holding our faith in Jesus, and all of God's Word is useful in instructing us on how to walk righteously:

II Timothy 3:14-17 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

I Timothy 6:11-16 - But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (ESV)

John Piper on Faith and Law-Keeping youtube.com: How Our Faith and Law-Keeping Work Together in the Christian Life

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

Romans 2:11-12 - For **God shows no partiality**. For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. (ESV)

Even Christians as children of the promise are supposed to keep the way of the LORD so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has promised to him:

Genesis 18:17-19 - The LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, **that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.** (ESV)

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and **not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring**, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are **the children of God**, but **the children of the promise are counted as offspring.** (ESV)

God is still collecting children of the promise, children of God:

Hebrews 11:13 - These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (ESV)

Fear of God is not only about having the heart to repent from sin and "beat hand on chest and ask God for mercy", but it is also having a changed heart, endeavoring to please Christ with our actions:

II Corinthians 5:6-11 - So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.** Therefore, knowing the **fear of the Lord**, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. (ESV)

Disbelief causes disobedience. Disbelief caused the Israelites to not walk in obedience:

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who **heard and yet rebelled?** Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were **disobedient?** So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief.** (ESV)

I Timothy 1:13 - though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because **I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,** (ESV)

Jesus was pleased with some of the Israelites here. But we must learn from the example here so that we still walk in righteousness and **desire to do good and not evil according to God's precepts** but also called to literally not practice evil either, but most importantly to not desire evil/to do evil:

I Corinthians 10:1-10 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ.** Nevertheless, with **most** of them God was not pleased, for they were **overthrown in the wilderness.** Now these things took place as examples for us, **that we might not desire evil as they did.** Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. **We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.** **We must not put Christ to the test,** as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not **with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness?** And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that **they could not enter in because of unbelief.** (KJV)

It's not "having (having possession of) the law" which counts, but "doing it". I think this part of Romans is really talking about how the Law of God is effectively used to judge people. And what's interesting is that it seems as though, through Christ Jesus, God judges the secrets of men, and that happens to all people:

Romans 2:12-16 - For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers (4163. *pōiétés*) of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

In those who walk according to the Spirit, the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled:

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

With regards to those that have faith in Christ Jesus, this be thought of as doing the law (loving one another) shows evidence for or confirming a person's faith in Jesus. I honestly believe that obedience and faith are not mutually exclusive, so in obeying Jesus God may make the person born again, and God may justify them. That's up to God. I think that's fine. God tests the hearts:

Romans 3:26 - It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

We certainly still will to do the will of God after being saved:

Romans 7:20-22 - Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

Romans 2:13 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers (4163. *pōiétés*) of the law who will be justified. (ESV)

We of course may be *imperfect* doers of the law, especially as Christians because we are justified by our faith in Jesus:

Quote by John Piper A person today may be a doer of the law who trusts Jesus as the only basis of their justification before God, who in the power of that faith by the Spirit walks in a manner worthy of the LORD and then at the last judgement Christ will be the basis of our acceptance - Christ alone, the basis of our acceptance with the Father and our life of obedience doing the law will be brought in to confirm that our faith was real, because faith works through love. So "doing the law" will not be the basis of our being in God's favour, but the evidence that we are trusting Christ, united to Christ, and thus necessary at the last day.

AMEN!! This has totally been my stance, but John Piper hit the nail on the head with this one. We can certainly "be obedient to God's commandments" and that is "doing":

I Peter 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. (ESV)

Titus 3:3 - For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. (ESV)

James 1:22 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:31 - By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper The only sin that you can conquer in life is a forgiven sin. **The only sin that you can successfully strive against without incurring the judgement of God on your legalism is a forgiven sin.** This is glorious. It's a glorious way to become holy.

That's really cool. I think what John Piper says here using the word 'legalism' is that upon confessing a sin and affirming the sinfulness of that sin (if I were to confess (G3670 homologeo) that I consider X to be sinful), and I want to repent from the sin, if Jesus has forgiven it, Jesus has also given us the grace to be healed and set free from it.

Acts 13:39 - from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Remember that sin enslaves. Jesus' blood sets us free from sin. Jesus sets us free.

Quote by John Piper Namely, that the only sin that can be successfully fought is a forgiven sin. And not only that, but also since the forgiveness has been secured infallibly by the blood of Jesus, the fight will be successful.

Perfect obedience though is something Jesus reached but I certainly have not:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

The nations have a form of God's law written on our hearts:

Romans 2:14-16 - For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 3:28-29 - For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, (ESV)

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

There is no problem with keeping the law to your level of commitment accountable to God, but we should not feel under the law that we must keep all of it all the time. Also, our obedience to the law of Moses is not what justifies us, but obedience to Christ's law/commandments **is** but in Christ's law is the commandment to have faith in Him:

Galatians 5:3-4 - I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. (ESV)

Those who annul and teach others to annul the law will be 'called' least in the kingdom. It's not humility to do so. They're teaching people against bearing good fruit.

We should not forsake Jesus as our Master:

Jude 1:4 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jude 1:4 - For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

We certainly should not forsake the higher precepts of the law - mercy, justice and faithfulness:

Matthew 23:23 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. (ESV)

We certainly should not annul and teach others to annul the Great Commandments or the 10 Commandments:

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. (ESV)

It's prideful to say that God is wrong, Jesus behaved badly and that the Law is wrong, and we shouldn't love God and our neighbour:

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

Love is the fulfillment of the law. Love does the commandments of God that the law requires. The person who does them can be described as a *doer* of the law:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper That's who we are as Christians. When we walk according to the Spirit, we fulfill the just requirement of the law. That is, we keep the commandments, we love. We are doers of the law. Not sinlessly perfect law-keepers. Nobody is nor anybody has been except Jesus, which is why we depend on Him, but rather, radically transformed people, through faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaning on the grace of God that comes to us through Jesus Christ.

AMEN!!

Jesus' atonement means that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk according to the Spirit - keeping the commandments of God:

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

Teaching others to not obey Jesus' commandments and to not obey the 10 Commandments is teaching people *against* walking by the Spirit.

Teaching others to break the law is teaching bad behaviour.

Romans 2:6-7 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; (ESV)

It refuses to acknowledge sin and it refuses to agree with God and it refuses to acknowledge loving God and one another, and it refuses to acknowledge holiness and being a living sacrifice for God:

Luke 1:5-6 - In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And **they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.** (ESV)

Jesus, the original Apostles and the founding fathers of Christianity still taught us to keep the 2 Great commandments and the 10 Commandments which is sound doctrine:

- **I Corinthians 7:19** - Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. (KJV)

So long as we hold faith in Christ, we're no longer victims of the curse of the law (which is to rely on keeping the full law perfectly including perfectly fulfilled in works to avoid being cursed):

Galatians 3:10-13 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them shall live by them. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree— (ESV)

Those who keep God's commandments and **and** the righteousness of faith / the testimony of Jesus will be called great in the kingdom:

Matthew 5:19 - Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called *least in the kingdom of heaven*, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called *great in the kingdom of heaven*. (ESV)

It is humility to keep God's commandments by faith (and not works), accountable to God who sees in secret.

Quote by John Piper "Pride is insubordinate. [It says,] You don't have a right to tell me what to do. That's what happened in the Garden of Eden right at the beginning of our sinful plight. And that's what all of us do apart from God's grace."

It's God who tests the faith, and God who justifies:

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

III John 1:11-12 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. (ESV)

We 'endeavour' to be justified **in Christ**. We want to be found **in Christ**. We don't justify ourselves, and we don't put ourselves in, but we endeavour to be justified by God by being **in Christ**:

Galatians 2:17 - But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! (ESV)

Surely to be found **in Christ** we would be trusting Him and and trusting in Him and living for Him, and even serving Him.

We must believe, believe in and obey Christ.

The will of the Father is to believe on the Son, and it's also for us to love.

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

God gifts us repentance as we believe in Jesus:

Acts 16:31-32 - And they said, **Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.** And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

We need God to know us:

Galatians 4:4-9 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

Yes we must trust Him:

Romans 4:5-8 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. (ESV)

We must do the will of the Father:

Matthew 7:15-20 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (ESV)

We must not be workers of lawlessness, but our belief should produce more obedience:

Matthew 7:21-23 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness (458. anomia). (ESV)

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

- 1 anomia: lawlessness
- 2 Original Word: , ,
- 3 Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine
- 4 Transliteration: anomia
- 5 Phonetic Spelling: (an-om-ee'-ah)
- 6 Definition: lawlessness
- 7 Usage: lawlessness, iniquity, disobedience, sin.

1	2532	5119	3670	846	3754	3763	1097
2	kai	tote	homologēsō	autois	hoti	Oudepote	egnōn
3	,			, 0			
4	And	then	I will declare to them	-	Never	knew I	
5	Conj	Adv	V-FIA-1S	PPro-DM3P	Conj	Adv	V-AIA-1S
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7	4771	672	575	1473	3588	2038	[e]
8	hymas	apochōreite	ap'	emou	hoi	ergazomenoi	
9	;	,	,	,			
10	you	depart	you	from Me	those	working	
11	PPro-A2P	V-PMA-2P	Prep	PPro-G1S	Art-VMP	V-PPM/P-VMP	
12							
13	3588	458					
14	tēn	anomian					
15		.					
16	-	lawlessness					
17	Art-AFS	N-AFS					

We must put Jesus' words into action:

Matthew 7:24-28 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, (ESV)

The words which Jesus had just spoken which he was probably referring to. We should be doers of the Law, specifically to **love** - to fulfill the Royal Law - and the "strait and narrow" involves repentance and sanctification:

Matthew 7:1-20 - Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you. Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (ESV)

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

We should continue serving God:

John 4:34 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (ESV)

John 8:29 - And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him. (ESV)

There are varieties of service, and God empowers us to serve Him:

I Corinthians 12:4-6 - Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. (ESV)

We must keep and accept the precepts of God over the precepts of men:

Mark 7:6-9 - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.** And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (ESV)

This passage is condemning submitting to **worldly / human** precepts and imploring us to submit to God's precepts. It's not condemning God's precepts but imploring us to put to death what is against God's precepts:

Colossians 2:20-23,3:1-6 - If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to **human precepts** and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you

have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. (ESV)

6 Jehovah is Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth

Jeremiah 31:33 - But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD (H3068 Yhovah): I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (ESV)

Genesis 2:7 - then the LORD (H3068 Yhovah) God (H430 'elohiyim) formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: God's Own Name

II Timothy 2:19 - But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: The Lord knows those who are his, and, Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: The Superior Name of the Son

The life which God has given us is in Jesus. And by believing He is who He is, we may have life in His name:

John 20:31 - but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing **you may have life in his name.** (ESV)

Jehovah God gave Jesus His name, Jesus Christ, Son of God:

Matthew 1:21 - She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. (ESV)

Matthew 3:17 - and behold, a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (ESV)

Jesus says that Jehovah God gave Him His name, Jesus, and that Jesus is Jehovah God's name:

John 17:11 - And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in **your name, which you have given me**, that they may be one, even as we are one. (ESV)

God's name is also Yahweh (Jehovah):

Exodus 3:13-15 - Then Moses said to God, If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name? what shall I say to them? God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And he said, Say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel, The LORD (3068. Yhvh), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. **This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.** (ESV)

Exodus 34:5-7 - The LORD (3068. Yhvh) descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD (3068. Yhvh). The LORD (3068. Yhvh) passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD (3068. Yhvh), the LORD (3068. Yhvh), a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation. (ESV)

Jesus manifested / made known this name. Jesus, the Only Begotten Son from God, with God's character and likeness, manifested / made known God's name onoma:

John 17:6 - I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. (ESV)

John 17:6 - I have revealed (G5319 phaneroó) Your name (G3686 onoma) to those You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. (engbsb2020eb)

John 17:26 - I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them. (ESV)

Psalms 22:22 - I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: (ESV)

Hebrews 2:11-12 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise. (ESV)

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (ESV)

Jesus' name is the name above all names:

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (G1843 exomologeó) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ESV)

Father God is greater than all:

John 10:29 - My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (ESV)

John 20:17 - Jesus said to her, Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. (ESV)

Thoughts:

- Jesus' name is the name above all names
- Father God is greater than the Son of God
- The name of Jesus belongs to both the Father and the Son
- God is to be remembered as YHWH

I Corinthians 6:17 - But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. (ESV)

Father God has a voice and a form, and sent Jesus:

John 5:37-38 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. (ESV)

Father God spoke here:

John 12:27-30 - Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. **Father, glorify your name.** **Then a voice came from heaven: I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.** The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, An angel has spoken to him. Jesus answered, This voice has come for your sake, not mine. (ESV)

Father God glorifies Himself as He glorifies Jesus:

John 13:31 - When he had gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. (ESV)

Philippians 2:11 - and every tongue confess (G1843 exomologeo) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ESV)

I believe that Jesus Christ **is** Jehovah and **is** Immanuel, and I believe in one God revealed in 3 Persons.
I believe that Jesus Christ **is** Jehovah, in that Jesus is God the Son, and the name Jesus belongs to Jehovah God:

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: What A Beautiful Name - Hillsong Worship

Hillsong - What A Beautiful Name (Lyrics) You didn't want Heaven without us; So Jesus, You brought Heaven down; My sin was great, Your love was greater; What could separate us now?

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You; You silenced the boast of sin and grave; The Heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory; For You are raised to life again

You have no rival, You have no equal; Now and forever, God, You reign; Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the Glory; Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is; The Name of Jesus Christ, my King; What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against; What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Romans 9:4-5 - They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the **Christ who is God over all**, blessed forever. Amen. (ESV)

Ezekiel 34:11-12 - For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. (ESV)

biblehub.com 34-11.htm: Ezekiel 34:11 Interlinear: For thus said the Lord Jehovah: Lo, I – even I, have required My flock, And I have sought it out.

John 10:16 - And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

John 11:51-52 - He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. (ESV)

Acts 28:28 - Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen. (ESV)

Video youtube.com: Gospel of Mark calls Jesus God in every chapter

God the Father and God the Son are one:

John 10:30 - I and the Father are one.

Matthew 11:25-27 - At that time Jesus declared, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (ESV)

Yeshua, Jesus

Mark 1:3 - the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, (ESV)

Mark 2:7 - Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone? (ESV)

Mark 4:38 - But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing? (ESV)

Mark 5:35-43 - While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further? But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not fear, only believe. And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping. And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, Talitha cumi, which means, Little girl, I say to you, arise. And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. (ESV)

Yahweh, Jehovah

Isaiah 40:3 - A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (ESV)

Isaiah 43:25 - I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. (ESV)

Psalms 107:28-29 - Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. (ESV)

I Kings 17:21-22 - Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord, O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again. And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. **2 Kings 4:32-35** - When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the LORD. Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. (ESV)

Yeshua, Jesus

Mark 6:48 - And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, (ESV)

Mark 7:31-47 - Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak. In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away. And his disciples answered him, How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place? And he asked them, How many loaves do you have? They said, Seven. And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha. (ESV)

Yahweh, Jehovah

Job 9:8 - who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea; (ESV)

Exodus 4:11 - Then the LORD said to him, Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? (ESV)

Yeshua, Jesus

Mark 8:1-10 - In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away. And his disciples answered him, How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place? And he asked them, How many loaves do you have? They said, Seven. And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha. (ESV)

Mark 9:2-5 - And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah. (ESV)

Mark 14:61-62 - But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven. (ESV)

Yahweh, Jehovah

Exodus 16:4 - Then the LORD said to Moses, Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. (ESV)

Only 2 people to climb a mountain to commune with God. Moses in **Exodus 24**, and Elijah in **I Kings 19**

Daniel 7:13-14 - I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (ESV)

John 8:18-19 - I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me. They said to him therefore, Where is your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:9-11 - We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (ESV)

I John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that

we may know him who is true; and **we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.** (ESV)

I John 5:11 - And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (ESV)

Isaiah 43:10 - You are my witnesses, declares the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. **Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.** (ESV)

To have the Spirit of Christ is to have the Spirit of Jehovah God:

Romans 8:9-10 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (ESV)

God sends the Spirit of His Son into our heart, crying, "Abba! Father!" We experience this as our own cry. This is how we are given the assurance that we are the children of God:

Galatians 4:1-7 - I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (ESV)

We, personally cry "Abba, Father!" We call to Father God.

Romans 8:13-17 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom **we cry, Abba! Father!** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: The Spirit in Us Cries 'Abba Father': Galatians 4:1-7, Part 5

I really want to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit cry 'Abba Father', and acknowledge to me in a voice that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

As of now (28 April '24), though, I have not actually heard that confession through the Spirit (as I expect to hear it) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh - just being honest.

I still profess that Jesus Christ is the Only-Begotten Son of God who has proceeded from Father God, come from heaven to earth in the flesh, born of the virgin Mary, was crucified and died for the sins of mankind and raised from the dead on the third day and has ascended to the Father and sits at His right hand, and I pray daily to Father God.

Also, I have had as of 28 May '24 in my dreams:

- A picture of "Jehovah" - Jehovah's name with a rose by it, and
- A distinctly male voice which said, "Jesus is God"

star.net.nz: The Word for Today - The right balance - May 28th

Interesting. It's not exactly what I'm still having faith for, but Jesus is indeed God the Son, and Jehovah is God and is Love. I will be still waiting for the Biblical acknowledgement I am waiting for "Jesus is the Son of God who has proceeded forth from Father God **in the flesh** from heaven to earth". Otherwise I'm simply not going to trust the spirit sending dreams/visions.

Song youtube.com: Petra: Love

Petra - Love (Lyrics) Love is patient, love is kind; No eyes of envy, true love is blind; Love is humble, it knows no pride; No selfish motive hidden inside; Love is gentle, makes no demands; Despite all wrong, true love still stands; Love is holy, love is pure; It lasts forever, it will endure

Love is loyal, believes the best; It loves the truth, love stands the test; Love is God sent in His Son; Love forgives all we have done

Love knows when to let go; Love knows when to say no; Love grows in the light on the Son; And love shows the world that the Son of Love has come

In this world where hatred seems to grow; True love goes against the flow; And becomes so hard to show

They can get very tactical sometimes, so I have to be very discerning. Though I will test them because I still get some true visions/dreams sometimes.

I John 4:2-3 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

Some stuff happened last week I might mention.

Tues <2024-10-08 Tue>:

- I woke up to a very puffy face - like I got beat up - by spiritual attack which has happened a few times in the last year on specific dates like Halloween.
 - But I went to Don's Bible study anyway
 - One of the guys walked out early
 - I blame witchcraft / satanic stuff / still feeling like I'm under a lot of spiritual attack

Also in this week, the guy from India told me by email he'd "beat me up" if I didn't help him financially. - Definitely a spiritual attack thing.

Wednesday <2024-10-09 Wed>:

- JWs came to my door
 - I mentioned how I implore them to accept that Holy Spirit is a person, not merely a force

Thursday <2024-10-10 Thu>:

- In the morning, on the verge of waking up, I heard a voice that said, "Shane" - same voice as when I heard them say "Jesus is God."
 - then I thought/spoke in my mind, "Please speak to me God." and I got a bright white flash immediately, then I woke up and got out of bed

What's interesting about this, is it's as if, connecting both of these events hearing this same voice, I'm hearing, "God is telling me that Jesus is God." This seems correct, and I affirm.

I've strangely still been getting a huge amount of spiritual attack as I resist bad doctrine. The fight is ongoing.

Mari Mari Emmanuel loves Jesus and this is a great sermon. I wish I heard and understood this earlier. Mari is speaking a lot of truth here. I can't fact-check the entire thing but it could have brought me up to speed a bit faster I think if I watched it earlier:

youtube.com: Part 1 Of Works Of The Holy Spirit | Bishop Mari Mari Emmanuel He (Jesus Christ)

is the only one who fulfilled all God's Commandments and laws He is the perfect human, like the Lord said in **Matthew 5:48** be as perfect as your Heavenly Father is.

This man is the perfect one like his Heavenly Father.

Therefore this human being can be the Son for God. This human only can be the Son - qualifies to be the Son because he has fulfilled all God's demands, requests, criterias. That's why, lawfully, he qualifies to be the Son. Not in any other way but by law, by law. So no one can challenge his authenticity in any court of law because he has fulfilled all laws.

So whenever he stands in any court of law he can stand with his head up, high up, and can say, "Anyone of you can convict me of sin?" No-one. He's the only human being who never broke God's word, because everything in Him was the yes and the AMEN!!

We are talking here about the Lord's humanity, not divinity. Divinity is God. He's the perfect God. We're talking about the human being, perfect like God.

Hebrews 7:26-28 - For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:20-22 - Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. (ESV)

But I am still seeking hearing that acknowledgement by continuing in Jesus' word, endeavoring to keep Jesus' commandments. I certainly have heard many false and deceptive voices, even blasphemy. So I mean, if the devil or evil spirits can speak lies to me then I just have total confidence that at the right time I'll hear from God.

And even up till now I still am seeking irrefutable personal assurance of God's justification beyond the unseen evidence I already hold out for by faith in God, and the faith in the promises of God written in Scripture that say I am justified for my faith in Jesus.

Not everything I have had in my dreams is against the truth. For example, recently I heard this in a dream:

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Therefore, I will continue to endeavour to keep Jesus' commandments:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

So it's really important that I remain faithful to Jesus and do my best to not compromise or be swayed by people who deter me from keeping Jesus' commandments.

And eventually His commandments become unburdensome, and we're keeping them, and we have confidence we have come to know Him:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

Knowing God coincides with keeping His word. I think that if we're having trouble understanding the Godhead, we should try to keep God's word:

John 8:54-58 - Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God. But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but **I do know him and I keep his word.** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. (ESV)

This kind of sounds like people can use their intellect to avoid obeying Jesus, and we must come against that disobedience:

II Corinthians 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to **obey Christ,** (ESV)

As we abide in the Word of God and are sanctified in the Truth, our spiritual eyesight becomes clearer:

Luke 6:41-42 - Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye, when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Also, the Holy Spirit may teach us even before He is **in** us, by helping us as He dwells **with** us, and eventually will be **in** us:

John 14:16-21 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever, even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

Also, everyone who continues on hoping in Him purifies themselves as He is pure. It's important to purify ourselves, as we hope in Him. At the end of sanctification is eternal life:

I John 3:1-3 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** (ESV)

Colossians 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (ESV)

This entire chapter is very important for testing the spirits:

I John 4:1-17 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he

who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for **love is from God**, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

- every spirit that confesses (G3670 *homologeó*, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God

We must hold fast to Jesus, the Head:

Colossians 2:18-19 - Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. (ESV)

Believing Father God Jehovah, loving Him, obeying His commandments, loving and obeying Jesus Christ His son, all must be true together, even to have a sound definition of what love is:

I John 5:1-3 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when **we love God and obey his commandments**. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

6.1 Seven I AM statements in the Gospel of John

6.1.1 The Bread of Life

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (ESV)

John 6:41 - So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. (ESV)

John 6:48 - I am the bread of life. (ESV)

John 6:51 - I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. (ESV)

6.1.2 The Light of the World

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

John 9:5 - As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Delirious? - Everything {Live}

Delirious? - Everything (Lyrics) It's a beautiful day and the world is bright; 'cause you took me away from the longest night; What can I do but give all I have to you

6.1.3 The Door

John 10:7 - So Jesus again said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. (ESV)

John 10:9 - I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (ESV)

6.1.4 The Good Shepherd

John 10:11 - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (ESV)

John 10:14-15 - I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: CityAlight - Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me {Live}

CityAlight - Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me (Lyrics) To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me; Through the deepest valley, He will lead; Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome; Yet not I, but through Christ in me

6.1.5 The Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (ESV)

It's interesting the way this verse has been interpreted and some words removed. I want to do a more in-depth study on ages and generations.

John 11:25-26 - Said to her - Jesus I am the resurrection and the life the [one] believing in Me even if he should die he will live and everyone - living and believing in Me never not shall die to the age Believe you this (Interlinear)

John 11:25:

1	2036	846	3588	2424	1473	1510	3588	386
2	Eipen	autē	ho	Iēsous	Egō	eimi	hē	anastasis
3	E	,						
4	Said	to her	-	Jesus	I	am	the	resurrection
5	V-AIA-3S	PPro-DF3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	PPro-N1S	V-PIA-1S	Art-NFS	N-NFS
6								
7	2532	3588	2222	3588	4100	1519	1473	2579
8	kai	hē	zōē	ho	pisteuōn	eis	eme	599
9					,		,	2198
10	;							apothanē
11	and	the	life	the [one]	believing	in	Me	;
	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	PPro-A1S	Adv
							V-ASA-3S	V-FIM-3S

John 11:26:

1	2532	3956	3588	2198	2532	4100	1519	1473	3756	3361
2	kai	pas	ho	zōn	kai	pisteuōn	eis	eme	ou	mē
3	,									
4	and	everyone	-	living	and	believing	in	Me	never	not
5	Conj	Adj-NMS	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Conj	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	PPro-A1S	Adv	Adv
6										
7	599		1519	3588	165	4100	[e]	3778	[e]	
8	apothanē	eis	ton	aiōna	pisteuēis	touto				
9	,	.			?					
10	shall	die	to	the	age	Believe	you	this		
11	V-ASA-3S	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	V-PIA-2S	DPro-ANS				

6.1.6 The Way, the Truth and the Life

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

6.1.7 The True Vine

John 15:1 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. (ESV)

John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (ESV)

6.2 Jesus

6.2.1 Jesus has overcome the world

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)

John 15:7 - If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (ESV)

AMEN!!

I John 5:12-15 - Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that **if we ask anything according to his will he hears us**. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. (ESV)

That's really good news for us:

- He carries our burdens
- He carries our shame

AMEN!!

Song youtube.com: Darlene Zschech - In Jesus' Name | Official Live Video

6.2.2 Jesus is the Lamb of God who sits with God on God's throne

Jesus Christ is our God. Forever, He is Father God's revelation to us of Himself.

Revelation of John 7:9 - After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, (ESV)

Revelation of John 7:10-12 - and crying out with a loud voice, Salvation belongs to our **God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen. (ESV)

Revelation of John 7:17 - For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (ESV)

Revelation of John 19:4 - And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, Amen. Hallelujah! (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:3 - No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. (ESV)

6.2.3 Follow Jesus for eternal life. Jesus is the Bread of Life

Luke 18:18-22 - And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

6.2.4 Believe Jesus and allow His word to abide in you

John 5:46-47 - If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

Proverbs 7:1-3 - My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Jesus' word:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

These Jews **had believed** but didn't abide in Jesus' words, and so prove to be Jesus' disciples:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

They didn't believe they needed Jesus to set them free from sin:

John 8:33-36 - They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

We need to believe Jesus is who He says He is:

John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. (ESV)

We need to keep Jesus' word until we are set free:

John 8:51 - Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone **keeps my word**, he will never see death. (ESV)

They couldn't accept that they needed to be saved:

John 8:37 - I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.

Jesus speaks of what He has seen with His Father:

John 8:38 - I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.

6.2.5 We are implored to love Jesus and follow Him

We need to love Jesus because He came from God, to show us the Way as the Light of the world.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life:

John 8:39-42 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, **If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did**, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

John 8:43 - Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.

We must obey His commandments to walk in the same way He walked so we get to know Him and are sanctified by faith in the truth, which leads to eternal life:

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

6.2.6 We must listen to Jesus

Luke 9:35 - Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!"

John 8:44-47 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com): Look at Jesus!

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** (ESV)

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

Hebrews 1:2 - but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:1 - Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (ESV)

6.2.7 We are implored to honour Jesus

John 8:48-49 - The Jews answered him, Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon? Jesus answered, I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me.

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes (G4100 pisteuo) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

6.2.8 We are implored to keep Jesus' words

John 8:50-51 - Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.

6.2.9 We must receive Jesus. Jesus is God's Only-Begotten Son

John 8:52-59 - The Jews said to him, Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be? Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God. But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

6.2.10 Even those who have faith in Jesus Christ's name may have the right to be born of God and become children of God

The worldly people rejected Him. Neither did His own people receive Him.

John 1:1-13 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens (G5461 photizo) every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

1 : 5461 photizo fo-tid'-zo
2
3 from 5457; to shed rays, i.e. to shine or (transitively) to brighten
4 up (literally or figuratively):--enlighten, illuminate, (bring to,
5 give) light, make to see.
6 see GREEK for 5457

John 5:17 - But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:1-7 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

Revelation of John 3:8 - I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

AMEN!!

6.2.11 We must do the will of God, which is the food and drink which Jesus gives us

John 6:27 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. (ESV)

John 7:34-39 - You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come. (ESV) The Jews said to one another, Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What does he mean by saying, You will seek me and you will not find me, and, Where I am you cannot come? On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Certainly, people are judged on their faith in Jesus:

John 5:28-29 - Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Whoever honours Jesus by obeying Him, honours Father God. Whoever hears these words from Jesus and trusts Father God has eternal life and doesn't come into judgement; When we start trusting (believing and obeying) Jesus, we have passed from death into life.

And in obeying Jesus we are performing good works which are works done in faith towards God.

John 5:17-29 - But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom

he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)

[youtube.com: John MacArthur "Jesus is God"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfXzvLcIYU) He is to be obeyed in a way that is due only to God.

6.2.12 Having faith (living in accordance with the truth, and in relationship with God) is asked of us - faith continues

What I mean by relationship is:

- being obedient to God,
 - abiding in Jesus
- being accountable to God,
- waiting on God,
- trusting on God,
- being led by the Spirit of God,
- etc.

Faith certainly is a way of life, it continues. It's how we walk:

Hebrews 13:7-9 - Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. **Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. (ESV)

Led by the Spirit of God is doing God's will:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! **Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!** (ESV)

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory** of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.** For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

II Corinthians 3:6 - who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (ESV)

From our perspective we are obedient as we are participating in the Spirit, but God works through us:

Philippians 2:1-13 - So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but

also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, **taking the form of a servant**, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (G1843 exomologeó) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

We must obey! This obedience is being led by the Spirit.

Sermon youtube.com: Love Is the Fruit of the Spirit

Our freedom is for serving one another, and if we are not abiding by Christ's law, producing love which fulfills the law, then we can't say we are being led by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:13-16 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only **do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh**, but **through love serve one another**. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 logō): **You shall love your neighbor as yourself**. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)

6.2.13 We must abide by his teaching

We must abide by Jesus Christ's teaching. Whoever does not abide in Jesus Christ's teaching does not have God:

II John 1:9 - **Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.** Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (ESV)

We must obey righteousness:

Romans 2:6-8 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

It is a gift to be able to be obedient to Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in Him so that we may become obedient to Him:

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been **set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life**. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Can you be overcome by sin again? Yes, you can. But we're supposed to be overcome by practicing righteousness. Jesus sets us free, washes and regenerates us. Once that happens, we must not go back into sin.

Hebrews 6:4-8 - For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. (ESV)

6.2.14 We must live sowing to the Spirit

Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (ESV)

Romans 8:10 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

6.2.15 We must be servants of Christ

Also, from the heart:

Ephesians 6:5-6 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:3 - No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. (ESV)

John 12:23-26 - And Jesus answered them, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

6.2.16 We must remain ultimately faithful to Jesus Christ, and never deny Him as our only Master and Lord

Jude 1:4 - For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (NASB)

Colossians 2:18-19 - Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Revelation of John 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death**, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)

6.2.17 We must endeavour to live faithfully to our Jesus Christ

Acts 11:21-24 - And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to **remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose**, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:13 - **if we are faithless, he remains faithful** - for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

6.2.18 Christian faith looks like this

We worship God by the Spirit, following Jesus, not the flesh:

Philippians 3:2-3 - Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— (ESV)

Hebrews 12:28-29 - Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (ESV)

Paul says that pursuing the righteousness that is by Mosaic law, is placing confidence in the flesh:

Philippians 3:4-7 - though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. (ESV)

But to put confidence in the Spirit is to not to abandon obedience, but to seek instead to know Christ Jesus, our Lord, with obedient faith to Jesus. Paul wants to know the power of Christ's resurrection in this life:

Philippians 3:8-11 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of **his resurrection**, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (ESV)

The righteousness from God that depends on faith, faith in Christ:

- Know him and the power of His resurrection
- Share His sufferings
- Become like Him in His death

Jesus literally commanded us to behave in this way, so keep Jesus' commandments:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

One example of a command from Jesus:

Matthew 5:42 - Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. (ESV)

Mark 12:30-31 - And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. (ESV)

With Christ's commandments we should endeavour to keep them as they're described. Give to the one who **begs** from you. If someone didn't need your so-called "help" but you tried to force your help onto them then that's not really the way this commandment is supposed to be kept:

Matthew 5:42 - Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. (ESV)

Luke 6:30 - Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. (ESV)

We are commanded to be innocent, and to bear witness of Jesus before men who persecute us:

Matthew 10:16-18 - Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. (ESV)

Philippians 2:15-16 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Matthew 10:39 - Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

Matthew 16:25 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

Video youtube.com: The Gospel Jesus Preached Is Different than What Most Have Been Taught

Video youtube.com: Did Jesus Preach the Gospel?

Video notes:

Tim Keller says that the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke), and Paul all say these 3 things:

- 1. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to earth in human form.
 - **Luke 3:22** - and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (ESV)
- 2. Jesus died to atone for our sins and it justifies by grace.
 - **Mark 10:45** - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

- **Luke 24:44-47** - Then he said to them, These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (ESV)
- **Luke 18:9-14** - He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)
- 3. On the cross and resurrection He overcame the power of evil and death and at the end of time He will come back to complete that victory.

Jesus is definitely reigning as King. That is for sure.

Quote John Piper The King, risen, reigning, replaces "Jesus, the King, saying the Kingdom is coming", in which He meant, "I'm here. The Kingdom is in your midst." And now He's come. He's done His ruling work. He's died to establish that. He's risen. He's reigning.

The gospel of the Kingdom of God (God's reign on earth):

Revelation of John 11:15 - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.** (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:26 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, (ESV)

Acts 8:12 - But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (ESV)

Acts 19:8 - And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Zechariah 14:4,9 - On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. (ESV)

Acts 28:31 - proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. (ESV)

It's the same gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-11 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he**

was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. **Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.** (ESV)

We must follow Jesus Christ who died for our sins, the light of the world, the Good Shepherd, and come into the truth, and into the Kingdom of God. Jesus is Lord of Lords, our Lord, our Saviour, our Master, our King, our God, the Light, the Truth:

John 12:44-47 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. **I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.** If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. (ESV)

Mark 8:35 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (ESV)

John 3:14-16 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

Mark 10:19-30 - You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, Then who can be saved? Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God. Peter began to say to him, See, we have left everything and followed you. Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (ESV)

Mark 13:9-10 - But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. (ESV)

Luke 9:23-26 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (ESV)

6.2.19 We should clean ourselves with the aid of the Word and *the Holy Spirit*

While we may have been justified, we still want to stop willfully sinning so that God can make better use of us:

Proverbs 16:32 - Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and **he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.** (ESV)

We should clean ourselves up:

II Timothy 2:21 - Therefore, **if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable**, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, **useful to the master of the house**, ready for every good work.

Through faith, **the Holy Spirit** cleanses us:

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them **the Holy Spirit** just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

By obedience to the word of God:

Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

By **the Holy Spirit** washing and renewing us:

Titus 3:4-6- But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of **the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

It's the will of God:

I Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

Our will must align to God's will:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

Jesus' words speak for themselves:

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

Paul echos this - a willing mind (readiness to obey). They gave themselves first to the Lord and then by God's will to us:

II Corinthians 8:3-12 - For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, **of their own free will**, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us**. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a

command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. (ESV)

And doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit of God:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! **Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!** (ESV)

6.2.20 We must clean ourselves up with God's help

Daniel 12:9-10 - He said, Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

Revelation of John 21:27 - But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation of John 22:14 - Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (ESV)

Philippians 2:13 - for it is **God who works in you, both to will and to work** for his good pleasure. (ESV)

6.2.21 We must be wanting to be cleaned of sin

We must look upon Jesus and stop sexual immorality and stop idolatry. The stories mentioned here are examples for us to follow:

I Corinthians 10:1-7 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

We must take heed of this, because we don't want to **fall**:

I Corinthians 10:8-13 - We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

II Peter 2:2-11 - And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they

sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. (ESV)

II Peter 2:19-20 - They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

Therefore, the **way of truth** involves believing the truth and to not blaspheme it involves also practicing the truth and obeying Righteousness (trusting and obeying Jesus) and turning away from sin is certainly a consequence of turning to trust and obey Jesus.

I agree with Billy Graham youtube.com: Billy Graham Classic Sermon

II Peter 2:2 - And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the **way of truth** will be blasphemed. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” (ESV)

6.2.22 We should put the ignorant to silence through doing good

I Peter 2:15 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

Jesus says you must obey God to be part of His family:

Luke 8:21 - But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

Hebrews 2:11 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (ESV)

Jesus implies you must obey Him (Jesus) to be part of His family:

John 7:16 - So Jesus answered them, My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

Devotional Word for today - Do God's word - March 7th

6.2.23 The obedient children are the ones who are not conformed to the passions of our former ignorance

I Peter 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

I know I can testify to this fiery trial being a real thing:

I Peter 1:17-19 - And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

6.2.24 The sons of disobedience are the ones who are conformed to sexual immorality, impurity, or covetousness, etc.

Ephesians 5:5-7 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;

6.2.25 If we trust in the name of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, we have eternal life

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

You **must** obey Jesus, and that is choosing **light** and choosing **agape love** towards God and people and not towards the world or worldly things:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (pisteuōn): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us**; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve**. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

6.2.26 Get to know Jesus by believing Him and following His commandments

John 10:14-15 - I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. (ESV)

Believing and obeying (loving) Jesus, we will be known by God:

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

We believe and obey Jesus:

John 3:36 - He who **believes in the Son** has eternal life; but he who does not **obey the Son** will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

By His grace we have to actually come into obeying Jesus to find life. Think about what it means to obey Jesus: It's to walk in the Spirit, to abide in Jesus' Spirit, to be obeying Jesus' commandments, to seek to follow the pattern of life that He lived to be found in Him. You can abide in Jesus' Spirit if you have faith in Him, believing in Him, believing, trusting and obeying Him, knowing Him, and being found in Him! Faith in Christ I believe means believing in Him and being obedient to Him, having communion with Him, etc. becoming intimate with Him, following Him. This isn't our own merit, but we still obey Jesus to be found in Him. In Him we have Jesus' righteousness:

Matthew 16:25 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

God loved us first. We must accept that:

I John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

John 3:35 - The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. (ESV)

We must also obey the teaching of Jesus, believe on His name and follow His commandments:

Matthew 7:21-27 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (ESV)

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

You can't have an abundant life without knowing Jesus, so we must have faith in God and follow Jesus' commandments to get to know Him:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

In order to know God we must love one another in the way that God has loved us:

I John 4:7-12 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

You must obey Jesus:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

We **must** have a response of love for Jesus:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

We want to go ahead towards knowledge of Jesus, and not remain in darkness:

John 12:46 - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (ESV)

In believing and obeying Jesus, we have the Son:

I John 5:12 - Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (ESV)

We must obey God. We have faith in God who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification, and having faith in God is having faith in His Son which is believing in and obeying Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:23-25 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

We must obey Jesus' commandments to know Jesus, just as Jesus obeyed Father God's commandments, and knows Father God:

John 8:55-58 - But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.

6.2.27 Atonement

Jesus' sacrifice is the only atonement for our sin we need. It's comprehensive. It must be received through faith in Jesus Christ - and that is not mere belief but obedience:

Romans 3:25 - whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (ESV)

Fear of God and hoping in God's steadfast love are strongly associated. Hoping in God's steadfast love and having the fear of God (wanting to please God, not wanting to sin against God), are strongly linked together. And because the faith we have is one which loves the truth of God, having the fear of God and having a love for the truth and a hatred of evil are all strongly linked together:

Psalms 33:18-19 - Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. (ESV)

With some amount of fear of God a person would have some compunction about sinning against God; A person with the fear of God is adverse to sinning against God and so repentance from sin goes hand in hand with the fear of God:

Genesis 20:11 - Abraham said, I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)

Ultimately, when we sin, we sin against God and we ultimately needed God to have loved us first in sending Jesus Christ while we were all still sinners in order that we might be cleansed from our sin as without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin:

Psalms 51:1-4 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:22 - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

Given Proverbs 16:6 which says that "steadfast love and faithfulness atones for iniquity" and Jesus saying that "greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends" and Him saying "You are my friends if you do what I command you" I believe that as Jesus was walking in love and faithfulness, perfectly obedient to Father God, Jesus' blood atones for the sins of those who abide in His commandments:

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

We are absolutely supposed to be not committing sin. But if we **do** sin then we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ. That propitiation for sin is available to all people to be received through faith in Jesus Christ:

I John 2:1-6 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

There is a righteousness that we can have through faith (imputed righteousness) and there is propitiation for sin that we might commit even after coming to faith:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by

the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

We are sanctified through faith and obedience to Jesus Christ:

Faith in the blood of Jesus looks like by faith obeying Jesus Christ as Abraham did (**Hebrews 11:8**):

- Trusting that Jesus Christ's propitiation for sin is available to wash away one's sin. This is available even after we have first come to faith
 - **I John 4:9-10** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)
 - **Romans 3:21-31** - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)
 - **I John 2:1-6** - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. **But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.** And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
 - **John 13:7-11** - Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. **Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.** Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! Jesus said to him, **The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean.** And you are clean, but not every one of you. For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, Not all of you are clean. (ESV)
- Believing what is said by Jesus' Apostles regarding sanctification and doing the will of God:
 - That we are sanctified by faith (actively trusting in, hoping in) in Jesus Christ
 - * **Acts 26:18** - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)
 - That we are sanctified by obedience to the Truth for a sincere love of our family in Christ
 - * **I Peter 1:22** - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

- * **I John 5:1-2** - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God **and** obey his commandments. (ESV)
- * God has described what this love looks like in several places

- **Colossians 3:8-10** - But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (ESV)
- **Galatians 6:2-6** - **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)
- **Romans 13:10** - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)
- **Mark 10:17-21** - And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, **You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.**
- **John 15:9-14** - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)
- Agape love is **definitely** valuing, treasuring, preserving

Jesus' sacrifice was done once for all (but we still need to receive it through faith in Jesus Christ):

Hebrews 9:24-28 - For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:5-14 - Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book. When he said above, You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings (these are offered according to the law), then he added, Behold, I have come to do your will. He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once

for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

”Cancelling our debt” is a metaphor that some people might try to incorrectly make Jesus’ words conform to, rather than the other way around. We must abide in Jesus Christ’s commandments so that we are justified and sanctified. We must have faith in the truth. We must love the truth. We must abide in love. We must be repentant, preferring God to sin.

We have been crucified with Christ and we died to sin, as Jesus ”cancelled our debt”, so now we **must** cease to walk in sin, and not go back to the vomit:

Colossians 2:13-14 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

We should do what is valuable in stopping the indulgence of the flesh, and not what is invaluable from human precepts, but instead we should follow Christ and His teachings, and His example of what love looks like:

Colossians 2:21-23 - Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Instead, let’s follow Jesus Christ’s teachings:

Colossians 3:1-4 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Firstly, obedient children are children who hear the word of God, believe and love God, and we should be holy in all our conduct if we call on the LORD God who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds:

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

I’m quite convinced that the substitutionary atonement is there to help us put a stop to sin, and live to righteousness and holiness:

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

If people including free-grace Christians do not repent from sin, they may still receive the wrath of God, but I’m not the judge here:

Colossians 3:5-10 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you **must** put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge **after the image of its creator.**

Revelation of John 9:20-21 - The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (ESV)

Revelation of John 18:2 - And he called out with a mighty voice, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. (ESV)

We **must** forgive. And we don't want the wrath of God, so we must put away what is earthly:

Colossians 3:11-13 - Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (ESV)

Romans 2:2-11 - We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

Being a Christian means God helps us to put the sin to death. And us being commanded to not obey the body of sin, the flesh, what is earthly, etc. that absolutely is what we are supposed to do. That sinful stuff includes not loving our family in Christ:

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

I John 3:10-14 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. (ESV)

Whether we circumcise our hearts or God does it or it happens at the same time, we are circumcised in the heart that we might die to sin and practice righteousness. Repenting, we are not resisting the Holy Spirit:

Acts 7:51 - You **stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears**, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 10:12-17 - And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and

chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. **Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.** For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (ESV)

Romans 2:5-8 - But because of your hard and impenitent heart **you are storing up wrath for yourself** on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. **He will render to each one according to his works:** to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but **for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.** (ESV)

We must stop doing evil and do what God wants of us, which is to have faith in Jesus, and do good, serving Christ:

Romans 2:9-11 - There will be tribulation and distress for **every human being who does evil**, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

Romans 2:12-13 - For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified.** (ESV)

Romans 2:14-16 - For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

We must live out the truth:

Romans 6:11 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

We stop obeying sin and start obeying righteousness, and God's Spirit helps us to do that:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (ESV)

Romans 6:17-18 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Romans 6:2-3 - By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (ESV)

Mark 1:8 - I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Acts 1:5 - for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. (ESV)

Romans 6:17-17 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, (ESV)

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Romans 7:25 - Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

We are debtors. We are debtors to God for His mercy on us so we should by His grace put to death the deeds of the body, the deeds of the flesh:

Romans 8:12-15 - So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! (ESV)

Romans 8:20-21 - For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (ESV)

There's nothing wrong with following the law by faith, knowing God sees our hearts, seeking praise from God and not men, but when presented with Jesus Christ, we should love Him and accept Him and place our faith in Him as He commanded:

Romans 9:32-33 - Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

Romans 10:8-10 - But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (G3670 homologēsōs, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

We should still be obedient to God. This verse clearly shows that God desires us to be obedient to Him:

Romans 10:21 - But of Israel he says, All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people. (ESV)

Romans 13:3-5 - For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. (ESV)

We should be compassionate on one another and accept one another, knowing Jesus welcomed us even though we had lots of faults ourselves:

Romans 15:7 - Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (ESV)

Romans 16:17-19 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who **cause divisions** and **create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught**; avoid them. For such persons **do not serve our Lord Christ**, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your **obedience** is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. (ESV)

Romans 15:18-19 - For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; (ESV)

Absolutely:

I Peter 4:17 - For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (ESV)

youtube.com: Keep Rejoicing @time: 6 min 1 sec For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God. You see the purposefulness in suffering? Now, this is God's judgment upon the church, in this text. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God and if it begins with us, Christians whom he loves with all of his heart and gave his son to die for, what will be the outcome of those who do not obey the gospel? So that Judgment of God is moving through the earth and it begins with churches. And the Judgment of God comes upon churches. Why? Because he hates us? Not at all. But because he loves us so much he will not spare us anything to get out of us what he hates. Did you get that? It's not because he hates us when a church or a Christian goes through times of darkness and trial. It's because he loves us so much he will spare us nothing to get out of us what he hates, namely sin.

Matthew 5:21-22 - You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment. But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, You fool! will be liable to the hell of fire. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:5-7 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For **the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.**

We **must** serve our Lord:

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

We serve God in various ways:

I Corinthians 12:4-11 - Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and **there are varieties of service, but the same Lord**; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. (ESV)

Walk how Jesus taught us to walk, with faith in Him, and in so doing receive fellowship with one another and the cleansing of the blood of Jesus:

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Be led by God's Spirit by doing God's will:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

We receive reconciliation through Jesus Christ who is our Lord:

Romans 5:11 - More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (ESV)

We are being made into people who walk in the light, not just intellectually but actually obeying God's commandment to love Him and to love one another:

Romans 5:19 - For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (ESV)

Our loving obedience abounds more as we grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness which looks like stopping sin and being obedient to Jesus, letting Jesus' righteousness shine through us:

Philippians 1:9-11 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Follow Jesus through the new and living Way:

Hebrews 10:19-27 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

We are ransomed by the blood of Jesus and the blood of Jesus continues to cleanse us as we walk in the light, as we obey the truth:

I Peter 1:16-22 - since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Revelation of John 7:14 - I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (ESV)

I don't believe "limited atonement" is correct.

To have been loved by God we only need to be any human, even those who will be condemned (because God did love everyone, offering Jesus).

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó* - *value, treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs* - *unique, only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina* - *in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting: |

To continue being loved by God we must receive Jesus and certainly not hate Jesus. We must agape love treasure Jesus Christ and believe He came from God, and Jesus said the person who keep His commandments is the one who loves Him:

John 16:25 - I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. (ESV)

6.2.28 Everyone needs saving

Romans 11:32 - For God has consigned all to disobedience (543. *apeitheia* - *willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience*), that he may have mercy on all. (ESV)

Romans 3:1-19 - Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! **Let God be true though every one were a liar**, as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged. But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just. What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that **all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin**, as it is written: **None is righteous, no, not one**; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that **whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God**. (ESV)

Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (ESV)

We are delivered from this evil age:

Galatians 1:3-5 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

We are saved from this crooked generation:

Acts 2:40 - And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, **Save yourselves from this crooked generation.** (ESV)

As we trust and obey Him:

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

II Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known **the way of righteousness** than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Psalm 18:1-2 - I love you, O LORD, my strength. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (ESV)

Zephaniah 3:17 - The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. (ESV)

God is our deliverer from this generation (Consider if you were stuck in Sodom and wanted to escape - God can make that happen. God can pull a person out of the sinful generation):

Psalm 18:1-2 - I love you, O LORD, my strength. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (ESV)

Jesus picks us out and purifies us so we are set apart for His own possession who are zealous for good works. Jesus rescues us from the crooked generation:

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

But Jesus doesn't pull us out of the world entirely until later. Here on earth Jesus decouples us from unbelievers, and we become one spirit with Jesus, and we also unyoke ourselves from unbelievers and distance ourselves from unrepentant sinners who claim to be believers, and we are expected to clean ourselves up by obedience to the Truth with God's help, but we still live among sinners of the world until God makes an entirely new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells. So we can't expect God to remove all the sinners from the city in which we live, for example, but we are called to live for the Lord Jesus while we are here, and Jesus brings us together with other believers who forsake their sin and live for righteousness:

II Peter 3:10-14 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

When we talk about 'merit' or 'credit', we were enabled to even be able to have merit in suffering for righteousness sake because **Jesus bore our sins on the tree** that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 'Live to righteousness' means walking in the light, walking in love and truth, practicing works that please God, making spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 13:1-8 says that without love (love that rejoices with the truth) we gain nothing. God loved us first and has chosen us to be a holy people for His possession, and we can now make spiritual sacrifices which God finds acceptable through Jesus Christ our Lord who we are holding faith in and who has loved us first, laying down His life for us first:

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** **Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood.** Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? **But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

I Peter 2:4-5 - As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer **spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

Jesus sets us free by His Spirit in us:

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

I John 4:4 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (ESV)

We can resist the devil because Christ is in us:

I John 4:4 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (ESV)

Jesus freely gifts His Spirit to the one who cries out to Him to be saved and wants to be saved:

Psalms 34:17-18 - When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (ESV)

Our sins are blotted out so that we can return to God:

Isaiah 44:22 - I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (ESV)

We are zealous to do good works, Jesus having redeemed us and given us His Spirit, but we resist coming under condemnation from those who try to make us feel as though we must do them in order to be saved, when we have already been saved. Now repenting from sin is a little bit different. We are zealous to do good works, and we also want to repent from sin, and stop committing bad deeds:

Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Psalms 34:19 - Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. (ESV)

People who are now in Christ are a new creation, and we should be transitioning into the new. That might take some shaking off of old things, and involves being sanctified by obedience to the Truth. But those who are in Christ are a brand new creation, born-again:

1	5620 [e]	1487 [e]	5100 [e]	1722 [e]	5547 [e]	2537 [e]
2	hōste	ei	tis	en	Christō	kainē
3				X	,	
4	Therefore	if	anyone	[is] in	Christ	[he is] a new
5	Conj	Conj	IPro-NMS	Prep	N-DMS	Adj-NFS
6						
7	2937 [e]	3588 [e]	744 [e]	3928 [e]		2400 [e]
8	ktisis	ta	archaia	parēlthen		idou
9	.			;	,	
10	creation	The	old things	have passed away	behold	
11	N-NFS	Art-NNP	Adj-NNP	V-AIA-3S		V-AMA-2S
12						
13	1096 [e]			2537 [e]		
14	gegonen		kaina			
15	.					
16	has come into being	[the]	new			
17	V-RIA-3S		Adj-NNP			

Our sins were paid for by Jesus' death. Jesus rose from the dead:

I Corinthians 15:1-5 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (ESV)

Jesus went to the place of the dead so people who had died (those who Paul is referring to here) may also be saved. Also, it seems that the rapture doctrine was **made known** from a **word from the Lord**:

I Thessalonians 4:14-17 - For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (ESV)

Jesus made me born again and I'm a new creation. Now we wait for ultimate salvation:

I Thessalonians 5:1-10 - Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that **the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night**. While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But **since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on *the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.* (ESV)

Video youtube.com: Something HUGE Is Coming!

6.2.29 Righteous deeds

Sermon youtube.com: John Pipe - Your Holy Deeds Are Not Filthy Rags

Talk youtube.com: Catholic Good Works are NOT Filthy Rags! {Good Works are Good!} {@CatholicTruthOfficial}

When we talk about 'merit' or 'credit', we were enabled to even be able to have merit in suffering for righteousness sake because Jesus bore our sins on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 'Live to righteousness' means walking in the light, walking in love and truth, practicing works that please God, making spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 13:1-8 says that without love (love that rejoices with the truth) we gain nothing. God loved us first and has chosen us to be a holy people for His possession, and we can now make spiritual sacrifices which God finds acceptable through Jesus Christ our Lord who we are holding faith in and who has loved us first, laying down His life for us first:

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. **For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

I Peter 2:4-5 - As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer **spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

Nehemiah 13:14 - Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service. (ESV)

Nehemiah 13:22 - Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love. (ESV)

Nehemiah 13:30-31 - Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good. (ESV)

God does not despise the righteous deeds of His children done by faith:

Isaiah 64:5-6 - You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (ESV)

6.2.30 Whoever makes an appeal to God, calls upon His name will be saved

We call upon the Lord to be saved. And everyone needs saving.

Acts 2:21 - And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (ESV)

Acts 22:16 - And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name. (ESV)

1 : 1941 epikaleomai ep-ee-kal-eh'-om-ahee
2
3 middle voice from 1909 and 2564; to entitle; by implication, to invoke
4 (for aid, worship, testimony, decision, etc.)--appeal (unto), call
5 (on, upon), surname.
6 see GREEK for 1909
7 see GREEK for 2564

Confessing that Jesus is Lord is becoming obedient to Him:

Romans 10:8-9 - But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word (G4487 rhema) of faith (G4102 pistis) which we are preaching, that if you confess (G3670 homologeó) (G3670 homologeo) with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe (G4100 pisteuo) in your heart (G2588 kardia) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; (NASB)

It's faith in the heart which we need; obedience to Jesus Christ and belief in Jesus Christ in the heart, and belief and obedience to God who has raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

Jesus has been perfectly obedient, so Jesus speaks what Father God speaks, and when someone seeks Jesus Christ, they see Father God, because Father God has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. The Father is in the Son. The Word is God.

Also, through perfect obedience, Jesus has spoken Father God's commandment of eternal life, which is what He has said:

- “the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.”

God sent Jesus:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

I Peter 3:17 - For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (ESV)

Obeying God's will often leads to suffering by the hands of those who are in darkness:

I Peter 4:19 - Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

Whoever has faith in Jesus, has faith in God. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father:

John 12:44-48 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Jesus' words bring eternal life. The commandment which Father God gave Jesus is eternal life and the commandment is the words that Jesus Christ has spoken, so we need to abide in Jesus Christ by letting His words abide in us, believing Him and obeying Him; doing what He said:

John 12:49-50- For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.

Jesus has the words of eternal life.

We need to obey Jesus Christ and walk and believe as God has commanded and spoken through Jesus:

John 14:6-11 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. Philip said to him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

We must believe Jesus, and have faith in Jesus Christ, obeying Jesus, and that is obeying God and having faith in God:

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

Therefore, to arrive at the knowledge of the truth, you've got to have an obedient heart.

We must hear about Jesus, believe and have faith in Him, and call on Him. In Paul's writing here, the calling on Jesus comes after hearing about Jesus and after believing in Him, and the hear of Jesus, necessitates a preacher:

Romans 10:14-15- But how are they to **call on him** in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!

Confess:

1 : 3670 homologeo hom-ol-og-eh'-o

2
3 from a compound of the base of 3674 and 3056; to assent, i.e.
4 covenant, acknowledge:--con- (pro-)fess, confession is made, give
5 thanks, promise.
6 see GREEK for 3674
7 see GREEK for 3056

6.2.31 Baptism is an appeal to God for a good conscience through the [death and] resurrection of Jesus Christ's, taking part in it

I think baptism of water is an **appeal** to God and identifying oneself into Christ's death and resurrection but the sacrament **maybe** is not strictly required to be saved (as far as I understand).

To be baptised is an act of obedience.

I definitely believe that "believer's baptism" is the right way to perform baptism.

Baptism does save, but I believe it must be coupled with belief, and also **trust**, and I think that **obedience** comes from trust:

Romans 6:3-4 - Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (ESV)

I Peter 3:18-21 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to **death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit**, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because **they formerly did not obey**, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Disbelief causes disobedience. Disbelief caused the Israelites to not walk in obedience:

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who **heard and yet rebelled?** Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were **disobedient?** So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief.** (ESV)

I Timothy 1:13 - though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because **I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,** (ESV)

Doubt is very contrary to faith, even contrary to obedient faith. Ask in obedient faith without any doubting:

James 1:6-7 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (ESV)

Abraham had **trust**. Abraham had **obedience**. I believe that **trust** is very important to have for faith to be counted as righteousness:

Romans 4:20-22 - **No distrust (apistia) made him waver** concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **That is why** his faith was counted to him as righteousness. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:14 - And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. (ESV)

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6.3 Obedience - A heart of obedience is the start of faith, and belief is the start of continued obedience

Faith which produces love:

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

Faith that from a good conscience with God produces Christ's love:

I Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

God wants us to know Him and obey Him and to do good as He has commanded:

Hosea 6:5-8 - Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth *as the light*. For **I desire steadfast love** and not sacrifice, the **knowledge of God** rather than burnt offerings. But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me. Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with blood. (ESV)

The only point I want to make from this text here is that faith is supposed to continue in love and holiness. I believe this continuation of obedience with faith, love and holiness (and self-control, which along with love is one of the fruit of the Spirit) applies to all Christians. John Piper explains this well:

I Timothy 2:13-15 - For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing — **if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.** (ESV)

Quote from John Piper and then all of this: faith, love, holiness, self-control is simply ordinary pathway that all men and women must take in order to come to eternal life and to salvation. We must believe, we must love, that love must yield holiness, and part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in that holiness is self-control.

6.3.1 Continued revelation comes from having a heart of obedience towards God

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

6.3.2 God's commanded is for everyone to come to the obedience of having faith in Him through Jesus Christ

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith** — (ESV)

6.3.3 Fear of the Lord

Isaiah 11:2 - And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Even after Jesus has come, the fear of the Lord is still important in getting God's attention:

Psalms 34:11-22 - Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Psalms 34:7 - The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. (ESV)

We still must obey God by obeying Jesus:

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

We make it our aim to please him:

II Corinthians 5:9-12 - So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commanding ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:5 - then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 10:27 - The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.

Proverbs 14:27 - The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.

Proverbs 15:33 - The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 19:23 - The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.

6.4 Repentance does involve turning from sin

Repentance involves:

- turning from serving sin, to serving Jesus

- turning from walking in darkness to walking in the light
- turning from obeying lawlessness, to obeying the commandments of Christ
- turning from trusting in sin, to trusting in Jesus.
- turning from having faith in darkness, to having faith in Jesus.
- turning from agape loving darkness, to agape loving Jesus.
- turning from obeying sin to obeying Jesus.

Jesus is our righteousness. Jesus is the Truth. Jesus is the Light. We must trust in, trust and obey Jesus. Believe the facts about Him. Believe His works, believe His words, trust in Him. Obey Him.

Romans 6:19 - I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. (ESV)

Luke 24:46-47 - and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that **repentance** (G3341 metanoia) and **forgiveness** (G859 aphesis) of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Malachi 4:4-6 - Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. (ESV)

Matthew 11:12-14 - From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

Luke 16:16-17 - The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is **easier** for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. (ESV)

Luke 16:16-17 does not have the word "were" in it in the Greek. But it reads more like "With regard to the Law and prophets up to John...". It's clear that the Law isn't voided because of what Jesus says next.

Luke 16:17 - But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. (ESV)

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1 The (G3588)    ---
2 law (G3551)      | Just a way of specifying the law up to this time,
3 and (G2532)      | not saying the law is only up to this time.
4 the (G3588)      |
5 prophētai (G4396) |
6 until (G3360)    |
7 John (G2491)     ---+
8
9 from (G575)
10 that time (G5119)
11 the( G3588)
12 kingdom (G932)
13 - (G3588)
14 of God (G2316)
15 is proclaimed (G2097)

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16
17 and (G2532)
18 everyone (G3956)
19 into (G1519)
20 it (G846)
21 forces his way (G971)

I think Matthew 11:13 reads in the Greek more like, "All the prophets and the law until John prophesied." The way the ESV reads, it seems to make it Matt 11:13 out to say there were only prophets up until John, and so by implication excludes Jesus Christ Himself, who is also the Son of God, from being a 'prophet'. And it also seems to read like the Law itself was only until John. But I do not believe that Matthew 11:13 actually reads like that the Greek. I believe that the way the Greek reads is more like this: "all the prophets and the Law up to John prophesied". Consider that Jesus Christ is the telos of the Law and Jesus also gave commandments (Christ's Law), it also makes sense that He is the "telos of the prophets". Jesus is the Son of God, but that doesn't mean He is not also regarded as a prophet. Jesus also made prophets Himself.

Ephesians 4:11-13 - And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ. (engbsb2020eb)

And if those who Jesus sends are speaking by the Holy Spirit, then what they say will be speaking the same (G3670 homologeó) Jesus. Their words would not contradict Jesus Christ's words. Their words will not be contradicting who Jesus is. Their words would not contradict what the Old Testament prophets have spoken about Jesus.

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

If we are "in the Spirit" then what other people confess or refuse to confess identifies whether or not the spirit working through them is from God. The principle can and should be used to test dreams, visions, angels, demons and human beings to see if we can trust them. I would never trust someone completely who refuses to give me the testimony that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, as the Apostle John speaks of in I John 4:2-3.

I John 4:2-3 doesn't say that if a spirit speaks the name "Jesus" then it's from God. It doesn't say that at all. Rather, this word confess (G3670 homologeó) surely means that "confess Jesus" is agreeing with, agreeing with Jesus. The spirit must agree that Jesus has come in the flesh and the spirit must agree with Jesus. Now if a spirit does say to me that "Jesus Christ has come from God into the world in the flesh", then that gives me confidence that the message is from God:

I John 4:2-3 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

Luke 24:25 - And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! (ESV)

Mark 9:11-13 - And they asked him, Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come? And he said to them, Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.

Matthew 11:21-21 - Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.

6.4.1 Justification by having faith like Abraham in He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead

Paul the Apostle met James, brother of Jesus:

Galatians 1:15-20- But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)

Abraham trusted God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Romans 4:20-25). And Abraham's works were not "works of the law" (Galatians 3:17), but were works of faith (Hebrews 11:8):

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Interestingly, James believes that a person is justified not by faith alone, but by works of faith (I Thessalonians 1:3), and the justification by faith 'alone' is fulfilled when they are justified by works.

So which comes first? Justification by faith or justification by working faith? Abraham's duty was simply to fear God and keep His commandments. The book of Genesis was written later. Abraham believed (trusted) God and obeyed Him. That's what we should do too and leave the doing of the justifying to God. Even though we believe that God commands faith, we don't commend ourselves for that faith. It's our duty to have faith in God (I John 3:21-24). Our faith should be modelled on Abraham's. Abraham had not read the book of Genesis, nor the letter of James, nor the letters of Paul:

James 2:21-24 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with (4903. sunergeó) his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Galatians 2:16-19 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law **I died to the law, so that I might live to God.** (ESV)

Fear-of-God:

Romans 4:5-8 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.

AMEN!! But this doesn't mean the other elements of working faith can't play a part.
We may rest from our labors when we die in the Lord:

Revelation of John 14:13 - And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! (ESV)

Circumcision of the flesh does not matter because salvation by faith is available for both the circumcised (justification by faith with works of faith like Abraham's), and the uncircumcised (justification by faith alone). But we continue to abide in Christ's teachings/doctrines and the facts about Him and as we learn more of His words commandments, are corrected/salted and sanctified by Him:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe (G4100 pisteuo) without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

The true circumcised are the ones who obey the precepts of the law, and if they walk in the footsteps of faith which Abraham had before he was circumcised, then that is a valid mode of justification. But we continue to abide in Christ's teachings/doctrines and the facts about Him as we learn more of His words commandments, are corrected/salted and sanctified by Him:

Romans 2:25-29 - For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. So, **if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?** Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. **But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.** (ESV)

We must share the faith of Abraham to receive the grace:

Romans 4:13-17 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, I have made you the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

In hope, Abraham believed against hope. He didn't weaken in faith, even when it seemed impossible. He trusted and believed God, and grew strong in his faith and gave glory to God. We should do the same.

We must believe on Him (God) who raised Jesus from the dead, with the faith that Abraham had - Abraham's faith was working. The faith at the start justified him and the works justified him too.

If a person lives their life as a living sacrifice to honour and serve Jesus Christ, which is honouring and having faith in God as a continuation of their faith, then all of that is analogous to Abraham's works of faith.

Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:15-16 - Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (ESV)

We must trust God in hope against hope, and not weaken in faith, and trust God's promise, and honour Jesus Christ with our lives - that is what I believe.

The most important thing is this faith - but God certainly uses our works of faith:

Our salvation comes from faith alone in God for the promise of forgiveness from sin and hope of eternal life with Christ Jesus for those who believe in God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

It's because of what Jesus Christ has done that we are justified to get cleaned up, not because of anything we have done. We must trust in God to justify us we hold to our faith.

Romans 4:18-25 - In hope he believed (G4100 pisteuo) against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, So shall your offspring be. He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness. But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Therefore, do not put your hope on how little faith you can have for Jesus Christ to scrape through (because Jesus Christ is the judge), but instead live for Him sincerely, doing as He has instructed us.

To follow and obey Jesus Christ with the same type of faith that Abraham had - that is what we should be doing - that's saving faith, I think. Our justification is based on what Jesus Christ has done.

Now as we live by faith, we are justified by this faith and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ who we are believing, following, obeying and honouring.

And we only have access to the grace if we have faith:

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Faith involves obeying Jesus Christ:

I John 2:3 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

I John 5:3-4 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

Jesus says you must obey God to be part of His family:

Luke 8:21 - But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

Jesus implies you must obey Him (Jesus) to be part of His family:

John 7:16 - So Jesus answered them, My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

So obeying Jesus Christ is having faith in God:

Romans 4:23-25 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

We are born-again to a living hope. We have a hope for eternal life now and assurance about it. We got that hope by being born-again through faith Jesus' gospel, that He paid the price for our sin on the cross:

I Peter 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (ESV)

Romans 8:23-25 - And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now **hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.** (ESV)

Being born-again certainly involves being born-again to a living hope. It seems to me that I'm awaiting salvation currently. I've been born-again to a living hope, and I'm still awaiting a future salvation, and I'm waiting for Jesus. And during that time, I'm trying to purify my soul by obedience to the Truth:

I Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

KJV is possibly more accurate here:

Romans 8:23-25 - And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For **we are saved by hope:** but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. (KJV)

Hebrews 11:1-2 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. (ESV)

Acts 26:6 - And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, (ESV)

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (ESV)

Titus 1:2 - in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (ESV)

6.5 The obedient children are the ones who are not conformed to the passions of our former ignorance

I Peter 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

6.5.1 Jesus Christ has explained what the faith of Abraham looks like for someone who believes in Him

Repentance from sin, obeying Jesus Christ, making Jesus your Lord and Saviour:

Luke 19:1-10 - He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today. So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (ESV)

Hebrews 6:20 - where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

6.6 Get to know Jesus by following His commandments

Matthew 7:21-27 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (ESV)

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

You must obey Jesus:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

We must obey God. We have faith in God who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification, and having faith in God is having faith in His Son which is believing in and obeying Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:23-25 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

pisteuo is the faith verb.

So the promise is for all who put their faith in God by obeying Jesus Christ with the faith of Abraham to a greater or lesser degree.

6.7 The sons of disobedience are the ones who are conformed to sexual immorality, impurity, or covetousness, etc.

Ephesians 5:5-7 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;

6.7.1 All sin is lawlessness

If we are led by the spirit then we are not under the Mosaic law. So we should forsake sin as it is described by such works of the flesh as listed:

Galatians 5:18-21 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

The law (Mosaic law) is laid down for those who are lawless and disobedient!:

I Timothy 1:9 - understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, (ESV)

Sin is lawlessness:

I John 3:4 - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

We are under Christ's law, not the Mosaic law:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

We must have faith in Jesus to be justified by faith. God justifies the person who trusts in Jesus and since we trust Jesus we should be doers of Christ's law (which is not outside the law of God, so we are doers of the law), and God justifies the person with the blood of Jesus. If we're trusting in Jesus then we're trusting in God who justifies the ungodly. We're not trusting in God to justify our ungodliness, but to justify us as we keep our faith in Jesus:

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

We must abide in the teachings of Jesus, believing what Jesus has said, believing Jesus:

John 5:37-38 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. (ESV)

Job 22:30 - He delivers even the one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (ESV)

In His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances is abolished:

Ephesians 2:14-16 - For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by **abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances**, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (NASB)

Instead of being under the law, we seek to live for Christ, and follow Christ's teaching:

Galatians 6:12 - It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. (ESV)

Within Christ there is peace:

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (ESV)

We follow Jesus and obey His commandments:

Galatians 5:14 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 logō): You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

We must feed on His flesh to abide in Him:

John 6:53 - So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. (ESV)

John 6:55-56 - For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.** (ESV)

Jesus' flesh is the way into the holy places:

Hebrews 10:19-20 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, (ESV)

Jesus suffered in the flesh, and we should too, and stop sinning:

I Peter 4:1 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for **whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin**, (ESV)

Colossians 1:24 - Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, (ESV)

We're justified by our faith in Christ. We simply follow Jesus:

Galatians 5:4 - You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. (ESV)

There are lawless spirits (spirits which work things like idolatry, and falsehood; anything which is against the truth):

II Thessalonians 2:7-13 - For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

Lawlessness includes idolatry:

I Peter 4:3 - The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. (ESV)

If idolatry is lawlessness then so is falsely witnessing, so is sexual immorality, adultery, murder/hate, etc. And the Apostles in the New Testament and Jesus, and the Bible generally testifies that we must stop being lawless!

youtube.com: America Under Delusion | David Wilkerson {@worldchallenge} And for this reason, God shall send them strong delusion that they should bring a lie. Now, we can't soften that. Theologians have tried. You can't soften it. God said, "I will send the delusion. I will cause them to accept the lie because God sees that they have so played with the truth, so toyed with the truth, so cast it aside. God after his wooing of the spirit, his gracious message of mercy time and time again, year after year, pleading and wooing, and then finally the door is shut, the truth is rejected, it's cast aside, and the Lord says, "All right, I'll give you over to the lie."

The same thing in Romans 1 when God turned over those who tried to hold the truth in unrighteousness over to a homosexual lifestyle. He turned them over, in fact, the Bible said, to a reprobate mind because they tried to retain the truth in unrighteousness. They wanted Jesus and their sin at the same time.

They wanted to be able to go out and lay with a man and a woman lay with the woman and still worship God. God in his foreknowledge knows that that individual will never receive the truth, it will never get through. God says, "All right, I give you over to your lie". And the lie is: Finally that I have a false peace, I have a false happiness because I know that I can do what I please.

...

And so we've got multitudes of people sitting in front of their internet, sitting in front of their computers watching pornography, renting X-rated movies, and now they have a guilty conscience, and they have their minds warped. And do you think they're going to judge anybody in Congress? The nation is in delusion. They're believing a lie.

Lawlessness includes hate/murder:

Matthew 24:10-13 - And then **many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another**. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

We are commanded by Paul the Apostle to present our members as **slaves to righteousness** leading to sanctification - that's called repentance from sin, folks!:

Romans 6:19 - I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. (ESV)

Here, I read light as basically a synonym for the truth:

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

I John 2:9-11 - Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (ESV)

Having fellowship with Him (Jesus) involves practicing the Truth as much as it involves believing the truth:

I John 1:6 - If we say we have **fellowship with him** while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not **practice the truth**. (ESV)

We were purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ and we are supposed to be changed and purified to no longer being lawless!

Jesus picks us out and purifies us so we are set apart for His own possession who are zealous for good works. Jesus rescues us from the crooked generation:

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

But Jesus doesn't pull us out of the world entirely until later. Here on earth Jesus decouples us from unbelievers, and we become one spirit with Jesus, and we also unyoke ourselves from unbelievers and distance ourselves from unrepentant sinners who claim to be believers, and we are expected to clean ourselves up by obedience to the Truth with God's help, but we still live among sinners of the world until God makes an entirely new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells. So we can't expect God to remove all the sinners from the city in which we live, for example, but we are called to live for the Lord Jesus while we are here, and Jesus brings us together with other believers who forsake their sin and live for righteousness:

II Peter 3:10-14 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

We confess (G3670 homologeó) as sinful what the Bible says is sinful, then when we are tempted to obey unrighteousness we instead obey Righteousness (we obey Jesus) and when we continue learning from Jesus we believe and affirm what He says, becoming sanctified by the Truth as we go, while holding to the Truth of who He is with belief in His name (**onoma**) we also maintain we are forgiven by faith in His name. For example, if we confess that what is sinful is sinful instead of denying that it is sinful then when we are tempted to commit sin, we instead choose to put our time/money/effort that would have been spent practicing that sinful (such as a vice) towards supporting your neighbour out of obedience to Jesus (especially those you consider are in the family of Christ), we are being sanctified by obedience to the truth:

I John 1:9 - If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

Luke 11:39-41 - And the Lord said to him, Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. (ESV)

Believe and obey Jesus:

Luke 6:32-36 - If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

We must submit to the Righteousness of God, and that means accepting the testimony of God regarding His Son:

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

I John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

John 9:39 - Jesus said, For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind. (ESV)

So the righteous ones walk in the light as He is in the light, believing and obeying Jesus, loving their neighbour as Jesus loved them first, and they submit to the Righteousness of God (Jesus Christ).

Our faith we keep between ourselves and God. You're accountable to Jesus for your beliefs:

Romans 14:22 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. (ESV)

We must not allow ourselves to be conformed to or carried away by the error of lawless people. The error is their lawlessness:

II Peter 3:17 - You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. (ESV)

We must follow Jesus, and obey Jesus and stop obeying sin!

Matthew 7:21-24 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven**. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

Part of the will of Father God is that we repent/turn away from sin to start serving Jesus:

I Thessalonians 4:3-7 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. (ESV)

7 Try to clarify what sin looks like from Bible verses

- 1. Rejecting Jesus
 - **John 15:22-24** - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but **now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also.** If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. (ESV)
 - **John 16:8-11** - And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (ESV)
- 2. Disobeying God - absolutely 100%
 - **Romans 5:19** - For as by **the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners**, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
 - Breaking God's law? Sure.
 - * Breaking the Mosaic Law is sin for Jews and disobedient people.
 - * Christians still 'do' the law in faith but don't rely on perfectly doing it for their justification, and don't rely on perfect compliance to it for their justification. We still rely on faith in Jesus for our justification. But the law outlaws a lot of sinful practices which are still very damaging to us
 - We can only **do** obedience to God while we are in the truth.
 - We must **do** love as commanded as we believe the gospel.
 - **I John 4:10-15** - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (ESV)
- 3. An evil heart or mind which is hostile to God

- We must repent from idols etc. even after coming to believe the gospel
- * **I Corinthians 10:9-11** - We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (ESV)
- 4. Evil deeds. Absolutely How is that defined though?
 - I would say it's **breaking the Great Commandments**
 - To not love God with all one's heart, mind, soul and strength, and to not love their neighbour.

7.1 Sin is disobedience

Instead of being a slave of sin, we become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching of the gospel: Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

7.1.1 Adam and Eve's disobedience

I Timothy 2:13-15 - For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. (ESV)

I do not believe the motivation of Adam that "he had decided to take upon himself death in order to save his wife" is true. I don't think it would be right to call what he did a sacrifice that was motivated by love, and if it were motivated by agape love, which is a treasuring, compassionate love, then that treasuring would have actually been idolatry to choose his wife over God, worshiping the creature over the Creator. The essence of sin is loving anything more than God. I neither think it would have been a predicament for him to choose between obeying the commandment to be fruitful and multiply and the commandment to not eat of the fruit.

It looks like Adam simply followed suit in willful disobedience. I think it's extremely contrived to read into this verse or add to this passage the idea that Adam ate this in order to save his wife. It's just not there in the text, and I don't think it can be read into it. "and he ate" can be read "and he sinned" or "and he disobeyed God". "and he ate" shows at least some level of him acting out the deed.

Eve was deceived and disobeyed God. Then Adam disobeyed God.

Genesis 3:6 - So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (ESV)

Adam should have been seeking to keep God's commandments mindfully and that would have protected him against disobeying this specific commandment to not eat or touch the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This commandment was for their protection. If Adam was mindfully keeping God's commandment and sought to keep it then he might have avoided eating the thing that would invoke his death. God said to him if they eat or touch it, they'll die.

Genesis 2:15-17 - The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. (ESV)

So it was a commandment intended to protect them from doing something that would kill them. So, therefore you could say that, even if Adam (as in, not Eve) was not being mindful of God's commandment and he touched and ate it 'accidentally' after Eve gave it to him, it still brought death for him.

Paul still calls it Adam's disobedience. Even if Adam's disobedience started with Eve's disobedience, and even if it was Eve who was deceived, Adam (as in the male partner, not Eve) still disobeyed. 'Mindful' or not, deceived or not, it was still disobedience that brought Adam into a state of unrighteousness, and brought death to them:

Romans 5:19 - For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (ESV)

Genesis 3:17-18 - And to Adam he said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, You shall not eat of it, cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (ESV)

I think it's fair to understand Paul's words that "Adam was not deceived" to mean that Adam willfully transgressed knowing he was disobeying God. He should have been seeking to keep God's commandments and that would have protected him against disobeying them. This commandment to not eat of the tree wasn't merely a dietary food law. God said that if they eat or touch it, they'll die. I don't think it's right to say this was being done out of some sort of desire to save Eve, or out of a desire to fulfill the commandment to be fruitful and multiply. That would be extremely contrived.

I Timothy 2:14 - and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. (ESV)

Anyway, willfully disobeying in order to obey another commandment wouldn't be trusting God for a better solution, but regardless I don't think the text shows that he purposefully disobeyed in order to obey.

I don't think eating of the tree was an act of mercy either. Nor do see how the commandment to be fruitful and multiply 'trumped' the commandment to not eat of the tree:

Matthew 12:3-7 - He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. (ESV)

It certainly seems as though they were guilty of sin:

Genesis 3:10-11 - And he said, I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself. He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat? (ESV)

I don't think we can say that Adam was motivated to eat of the fruit out of love for Eve in order to save her. But if we were to say that that is why he did it, then Adam took matters into his own hands, rather than trusting God with a legitimate solution that he had to trust God would come up with. The whole, "Adam as a messianic archetype for Christ" thing is really contrived. In fact, I think the idea might come out of gnosticism - "Christ and Sophia".

Adam being referred to as a 'type' of the one who was to come (Christ) is really just talking about what I Cor 15:21-22 says:

I Corinthians 15:21-22 - For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (ESV)

Romans 5:14-19 - Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:45 - Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (ESV)

If Adam had trusted God with the issue then he could have and should have simply asked God for mercy for his wife. If Adam was motivated to "save Eve" then what he did was clearly done in distrust of God, and in distrust for God to be able to save them.

Psalms 78:21-22 - Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power. (ESV)

I think the "two conflicting commandments" idea doesn't really fly. If Adam remained faithful to God and did not disobey God, then God might have come up with another solution, in order for Adam to fulfill that initial directive to be fruitful and multiply.

It's so, so important for Christians to endeavour to keep Christ's commandments.

II Timothy 2:21 - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (ESV)

Didache says, "But not every one who speaks in the Spirit is a prophet but only if he holds the ways of the Lord."

So Adam should have kept God's commandments, and he wouldn't be disobeying God's commandment to be fruitful and multiply by "not eating of the fruit".

If Adam simply was seeking to maintain a good conscience with God, then that would involve keeping God's commandments, and whatever happened would not have involved Adam eating of the fruit. Anyway, as Christians, we also have to have our first allegiance to Christ.

II Corinthians 11:3 - But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (ESV)

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

Luke 14:26-33 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate (3404. *miseó*, 3404 *miséō* – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

Adam wasn't deceived, and so he must have willfully disobeyed God's commandment for them to not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

That's not a lot of commandments to follow, but he disobeyed God's Law at the time.

Romans 5:18-21 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

If Adam did so willfully then that alone would defile himself. If Adam did so mindlessly taking the fruit from Eve, it still brought death upon him because God said that if he touched or ate it then he would die.

And it seems to me that Adam didn't resist sin. Adam didn't resist disobeying God, when he should have made effort to remain faithful to God, effort to continue in obedience to God. And Adam may not have been mindful of God's commandment which was for his protection.

Hosea 4:6 - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. (ESV)

And I do not believe that the commandment to be fruitful and multiply required Adam to eat of the fruit in order to fulfill the commandment. Thus there was no predicament.

Hebrews 12:4 - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (ESV)

Adam's 'predicament' (if we can even call it that) is that while Eve had disobeyed God, Adam and Eve were also commanded to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, etc. So what was he to do? Just let Eve get booted out of the garden and him to stay? I think that if Adam trusted in God then he would have believed in God even for potential salvation of Eve:

Genesis 1:22 - And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. (ESV)

Genesis 2:17 - but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. (ESV)

Psalms 78:21-22 - Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, because they did not **believe in God** and did not **trust his saving power**. (ESV)

I had an interesting conversation and the end of the day today <2025-06-11 Wed> with someone answering questions about the LDS organisation. I had prayed yesterday for God to help sanctify the LDS people in the Truth, and myself as well.

I got home at the end of the day and fed my cat, and opened up StarCraft 2 to play a game and then I saw someone was answering questions about the LDS organisation / their doctrine. And so I struck a conversation. I confessed my faith to them: Jesus is the Christ, Jesus is Jehovah the Son of God, died on a tree, rose from the dead for my justification. They amen that. And we got talking.

As part of that Adam's let's call it "predicament" was brought up.

Adam's predicament theory. I do not believe the motivation that Adam had decided to take upon himself

Adam, in his desire to fulfill God's command - decided to take upon himself death (I disagree with this) - in order to save his wife. For we know that the woman is saved in childbearing. Adam was not deceived. He knew what he was doing. And was willing to sacrifice himself to be with his wife and save her. The Lord Jesus Christ is not deceived - He was willing to come into our world - to inherit the same fallen nature - in order to sacrifice Himself and thus saving us.

I Timothy 2:15 - Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. (ESV)

So given the commandment to be fruitful and multiply and also the commandment to not eat of the fruit. I think Adam was wrong to take the fruit. We should resist disobeying God.

Hebrews 12:4 - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (ESV)

In the situation, Adam should have not disobeyed God to "obey God". Obeying God should be done in a legitimate way.

I Timothy 1:8 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, (ESV)

If I stole money to have something to give to the one that asks, for example, like Robin Hood, that isn't a legitimate way to give to the one who asks. Adam could have left the garden freely with his wife, without eating the fruit, as far as I understand. Eve would have been booted, and he could have gone with her. That would have been the correct thing to do. The first thing he should have done is supplicated to God, as the head of the wife, in the fear of God, he should have asked God for mercy for his wife:

James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

I Peter 5:5 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

7.2 Iniquity and sin: In this case, sin is the verb, I think, and iniquity is the noun

Job 10:14 - If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity. (ESV)

Job 14:16-17 - For then you would number my steps; you would not keep watch over my sin; my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity. (ESV)

Psalms 38:18 - I confess (G3670 homologeó) my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin. (ESV)

Psalms 51:2 - Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (ESV)

7.3 God searches the heart and tests the mind

Jeremiah 17:10 - I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds. (ESV)

Proverbs 5:21 - For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths. (ESV)

Job 10:4-8 - Have you eyes of flesh? Do you see as man sees? Are your days as the days of man, or your years as a man's years, that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin, although you know that I am not guilty, and there is none to deliver out of your hand? Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. (ESV)

We should ask God to search our heart, and our thoughts, and try us:

Psalms 139:23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (ESV)

Psalms 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (ESV)

7.4 The law is laid down for the sinners

Sinners:

- the lawless and disobedient,
- the ungodly,
- and sinners,
- the unholy and profane

I Timothy 1:9 - understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, (ESV)

7.5 Whoever transgresses the law is liable to judgement

Matthew 5:21 - You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment. (ESV)

7.6 Anger leads to the matter being settled in God's court

Anger is not inherently sinful but anger has to be well-placed:

Ephesians 4:26-27 - Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. (ESV)

If someone is angry with his brother, then God may take this matter to judgement:

Matthew 5:22 - But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, You fool! will be liable to the hell of fire. (ESV)

If you're unrighteously angry then watch out:

John 7:19-25 - Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me? The crowd answered, You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you? Jesus answered them, I did one deed, and you all marvel at it. Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment. Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? (ESV)

II Chronicles 28:9 - But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded, and he went out to meet the army that came to Samaria and said to them, Behold, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. (ESV)

3709. orgé "Orgē comes from the verb oragō meaning, 'to teem, to swell'; and thus implies that it is not a sudden outburst, but rather (referring to God's) fixed, controlled, passionate feeling against sin . . . a settled indignation (so Hendriksen)" (D. E. Hiebert, at 1 Thes 1:10).

Jesus' *anger* here was a godly grief:

Mark 3:4-5 - And he said to them, Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill? But they were silent. And **he looked around at them with anger (3709. orgé)**, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, Stretch out your hand. He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

Jesus could say, "You blind fools!" without sinning because Jesus has no sin and could never be found to be a hypocrite. Also, because Jesus is absolutely right:

Matthew 23:17 - You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? (ESV)

But we should seriously avoid saying "You fool" anyway because we may have a "log in our own eye", and God takes this very seriously:

James 1:19-20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires. (ESV)

Luke 6:41-42 - Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye, when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Matthew 5:22 - But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, You fool! will be liable to the hell of fire. (ESV)

James and Paul don't direct this at individuals. And also, they would be speaking in the Spirit. So if we're going to say something is foolish, it's loving to do it in a way which doesn't harm the other person:

Galatians 3:1 - O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. (ESV)

James 2:20 - Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? (ESV)

Romans 1:21-23 - For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. (ESV)

We must forgive our family in Christ from the heart:

Matthew 18:33-35 - And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you? And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. (ESV)

And we must love our family in Christ from the heart:

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (ESV)

The "anger of man" is exemplified in John 7:23 where some people blindly were angry at Jesus for doing good:

James 1:19-21 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the **anger of man** does not produce the righteousness that God requires. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (ESV)

God's anger is just and He is Righteous:

Psalms 7:11 - God is a righteous judge, and a God who **feels indignation every day**. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 6:15 - for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God, lest **the anger of the LORD your God** be kindled against you, and **he destroy you from off the face of the earth**. (ESV)

Nahum 1:2-3 - The LORD is a **jealous and avenging** God; the LORD is **avenging and wrathful**; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. (ESV)

Nahum 1:2-3 - God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is **furious**; the LORD will take **vengeance on his adversaries**, and he **reserveth wrath for his enemies**. The LORD is **slow to anger, and great in power**, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. (KJV)

John 17:25 - O **righteous Father**, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. (ESV)

youtube.com: John Piper - Saved Forever If I say my ongoing salvation depends on Christ's ongoing intercessory work for me with the Father, what do I need saving from? The Father, God, else I would not need an intercessor.

Intercessors interpose themselves to help fix something that isn't fixed, or to keep something fixed.

The big issue is God's wrath.

This book (the Holy Scriptures) ... was written to help us get right with a wrathful God.

youtube.com: Saved Forever @time: 11 min 17 sec Do not conclude from my first implication that Jesus loves me and God hates me, okay? Let's get this straight. Now the reason that would be a false conclusion is because the priesthood is God's idea, not Jesus' idea, and Jesus accepted the father's mandate to come save me from his wrath. You got that? The love of God for me, sinner, interposes his Priestly son to save me from his wrath against me.

The love of God for this worthless sinner interposes his most precious possession, His Son whom he loves, in order that he might save me from his wrath against me all the while vindicating his justice and upholding his glory in the cross.

That's the beauty of the cross. It is the love of God rescuing sinners from the wrath of God by vindicating the justice of God and upholding the glory of God.

You got to get that otherwise you will sentimentalize God and people are sentimentalizing God everywhere.

7.7 Sin - what does it look like

- doing and devising and being evil
 - disobedience to God
 - divination
 - iniquity
 - idolatry
 - profaning what is holy
 - lies
 - adultery
 - murder, which includes abortion
 - strengthening the hands of evildoers - supporting evildoers
 - self-pride, and prideful sin
 - evil thoughts, inventing evil
 - sexual immorality
 - theft
 - false-witness
 - slander, gossip
 - works of iniquity
 - thoughts of iniquity
 - in the heart, breaking God's 10 commandments
 - envy, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

7.7.1 Transgressing the 10 Commandments

The way to keep the 10 commandments properly is to love your neighbour as yourself. It's lawful to love. It's lawful to save life. It's overarchingly lawful to do good. If we endeavour to keep the 10 commandments, then that is how we should keep them; the way Jesus did and described:

Galatians 5:13-14 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 λογός): **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** (ESV)

It's lawful to love:

Luke 6:9-10 - And Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? And after looking around at them all he said to him, Stretch out your hand. And he did so, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

Slaves worship idols. Christians obey God, and in obeying God we are free. We love God and trust God and love Jesus and follow Jesus:

Exodus 20:2-3 - I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. (ESV)

The New Testament writers still taught believers to not break the 10 Commandments:

James 2:11 - For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. (ESV)

Romans 13:9 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV)

Even as born-again Christians, keeping the 10 Commandments is very important. Just because we may be justified by faith in Jesus Christ doesn't mean that followers of Jesus obey unrighteousness. Followers of Jesus still obey righteousness:

Romans 1:29-2:13 - They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.** For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified.** (ESV)

I Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurors, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

The righteousness in the actual doing of the law (even doing it whilst not having necessarily heard it) is still upheld but there is now the righteousness that is by faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, keeping the commandments of God and following Jesus are not mutually exclusive. And the law still describes what good behaviour looks like and what bad behaviour looks like. But through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, as we follow and place our faith in Jesus, obeying Jesus to repent from sin and to do good and to pass forward love and forgiveness, etc., we can be justified by our faith in Jesus. As we go on living, we keep our obedient believing faith in Jesus, and no longer want to rebel against God's law. Perfect compliance to the law is no longer the basis of our justification but we seek to not break the law. One of Paul's points here is that the Gentiles did not have the Law given through Moses. So the works of the Law that Paul is talking about are the works of the Mosaic Law:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

#	Bible reference	Verses to show these commandments are still important
1	Exodus 20:2-3 - I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. (ESV)	II Corinthians 6:16-17 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, (ESV) I John 5:21 - Little children, keep yourselves from idols. (ESV) I Corinthians 10:11-14 - Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (ESV) I Corinthians 10:7 - Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. (ESV) Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV) I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV) Colossians 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (ESV) I John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

#	Bible reference	Verses to show these commandments are still important
2	Exodus 20:4-6 - You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. (ESV)	Acts 17:29 - Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. (ESV) Romans 1:23 - and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. (ESV) Psalms 97:7 - All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods! (ESV) Revelation of John 16:2 - So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. (ESV) Luke 4:7-8 - If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours. And Jesus answered him, It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

#	Bible reference	Verses to show these commandments are still important
3	Exodus 20:7 - You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. (ESV)	James 5:12 - But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. (ESV) Matthew 5:36-37 - And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply Yes or No; anything more than this comes from evil. (ESV) Genesis 2:3 - So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (ESV) Luke 23:56 - Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. (ESV) Mark 2:27-28 - And he said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath. (ESV) Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (ESV) Hebrews 10:25 - not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)
4	Exodus 20:8-11 - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (ESV)	

#	Bible reference	Verses to show these commandments are still important
5	Exodus 20:12 - Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (ESV)	We should follow God's commandments to love him and so that things go well with us. Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. (ESV)
6	Exodus 20:13 - You shall not murder. (ESV)	I John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV) Romans 13:9 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV)
7	Exodus 20:14 - You shall not commit adultery. (ESV)	Proverbs 6:32 - He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. (ESV) Romans 7:2-3 - Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress. (ESV)
8	Exodus 20:15 - You shall not steal. (ESV)	Ephesians 4:28 - Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (ESV)

#	Bible reference	Verses to show these commandments are still important
9	Exodus 20:16 - You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (ESV)	I Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)
10	Exodus 20:17 - You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's. (ESV)	Ephesians 5:3 - But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (ESV) Luke 12:15 - And he said to them, Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. (ESV) Romans 13:9 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV) Colossians 3:5 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (ESV) Romans 7:7-8 - What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, You shall not covet. But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. (ESV)

Quote from a friend "God's will is going to be done. If we don't resist it then it will be a blessing to us and if

we resist it then it will be a curse to us."

Without God, we can't bear fruit. Jesus Christ who is God is the one who builds His church:

Matthew 16:18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

But we still practice love and build one-another up, and it's Christ, our Head who is building His church:

Ephesians 4:11-25 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)

God is the one at work and He is unstoppable, AMEN!!

7.7.2 Having a will to do evil, rather than a will to do God's will

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV)

Matthew 15:19 - For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. (ESV)

7.7.3 All manner of unrighteousness

Romans 1:26-32 - For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV)

7.7.4 Witchcraft / Sorcery

Witchcraft is satanic, lying, anti-God, anti-holiness.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 - When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a wizard or a necromancer, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God, for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this. (ESV)

Jeremiah 27:9-10 - So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your fortune-tellers, or your sorcerers, who are saying to you, You shall not serve the king of Babylon. For it is a lie that they are prophesying to you, with the result that you will be removed far from your land, and I will drive you out, and you will perish. (ESV)

Malachi 3:5 - Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:15 - Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (ESV)

7.7.5 Murder

I John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

I John 3:12 - We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:15 - Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (ESV)

7.7.6 Theft

Revelation of John 9:21 - nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (ESV)

7.7.7 Rejecting the word of the LORD

Isaiah 30:9-13 - For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; who say to the seers, Do not see, and to the prophets, Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel. Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; (ESV)

1 Samuel 15:23 - For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

7.7.8 Presumption and going beyond the Scripture

I Corinthians 4:6 - I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. (ESV)

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

Psalm 19:13 - Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. (ESV)

I Samuel 15:23 - For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

7.7.9 Wandering / backsliding from God

Jeremiah 14:7 - Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against you. (ESV)

Jeremiah 14:10 - Thus says the LORD concerning this people: They have loved to wander thus; they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them; now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. (ESV)

7.7.10 Prophesying lies

Jeremiah 14:14 - And the LORD said to me: The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. (ESV)

7.7.11 Ungodliness

Isaiah 32:6 - For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. (ESV)

7.7.12 Pride, debauchery, greed

Ezekiel 16:49-58 - Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it. Samaria has not committed half your sins. You have committed more abominations than they, and have made your sisters appear righteous by all the abominations that you have committed. Bear your disgrace, you also, for you have intervened on behalf of your sisters. Because of your sins in which you acted more abominably than they, they are more in the right than you. So be ashamed, you also, and bear your disgrace, for you have made your sisters appear righteous. I will restore their fortunes, both the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters, and I will restore your own fortunes in their midst, that you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all that you have done, becoming a consolation to them. As for your sisters, Sodom and her daughters shall return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former state, and you and your daughters shall return to your former state. Was not your sister Sodom a byword in your mouth in the day of your pride, before your wickedness was uncovered? Now you have become an object of reproach for the daughters of Syria and all those around her, and for the daughters of the Philistines, those all around who despise you. You bear the penalty of your lewdness and your abominations, declares the LORD. (ESV)

7.7.13 Pride in self and lack of humility towards God

youtube.com: The Great Sin by C. S. Lewis Doodle {BBC Talk 16, Mere Christianity, Bk. 3, Chapter 8}.

Psalms 36:2 - For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. (ESV)

Psalms 10:10-11 - The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might. He says in his heart, God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it. (ESV)

Isaiah 13:11 - I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride is **self-satisfaction**."

Hosea 13:4-6 - But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior. It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought; but when they had grazed, they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride is **self-sufficiency / self-reliance**."

Deuteronomy 8:11-16 - Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride considers itself above instruction [from God] - **When God speaks and we don't listen**."

Jeremiah 13:9-11 - Thus says the LORD: Even so will I spoil the pride of Judah and the **great pride** of Jerusalem. **This evil people, who refuse to hear my words**, who **stubbornly follow their own heart** and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the LORD, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride is insubordinate. [It says,] You don't have a right to tell me what to do. That's what happened in the Garden of Eden right at the beginning of our sinful plight. And that's what all of us do apart from God's grace."

Psalms 119:21 - You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride **takes credit for what God alone does**."

Daniel 4:30-34 - and the king answered and said, **Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?** While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: **The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field.** And you shall be made to eat

grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws. At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the **Most High**, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; (ESV)

Daniel 4:37 - Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and **those who walk in pride he is able to humble.** (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride exalts in being made much of."

Matthew 23:6-7 - and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride aspires to the place of God."

Acts 12:21-23 - On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. And the people were shouting, The voice of a god, and not of a man! Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride opposes the very existence of God."

Psalms 10:4 - In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, There is no God. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride refuses to trust in God. The opposite of arrogance is not just humility, it's trust. Trust is a very lowly demeanor. [Trust is] a way of saying I don't have what I need in here; I have to trust somebody else to give it to me. I don't have the resources in here to save me, to forgive me, to reconcile me to God, to lead my life in a holy way, to be what my family needs from me, to be what a church needs from me. I do not have the resources, I cannot do it. And you look around for an answer and God says, I have a mighty hand and I promise you I will care for you. Trust me. Pride cringes at the prospect of saying, I am bankrupt and helpless. I need another to save me, and help me and lead me and guide me, and hold me and strengthen me. Everything comes from outside me. Only humility can talk that way. **Trust in the promise of God is the expression of humility.**"

Arrogance is contrasted with trust in God:

Proverbs 28:25 - A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Pride is often anxious about the future."

Anxiety flows from pride. If we don't trust God we will be anxious about the future:

I Peter 5:6-7 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (ESV)

7.7.14 Discouraging the righteous, encouraging the wicked, even to misguide them to harm

Ezekiel 13:22 - Because you have disheartened the righteous falsely, although I have not grieved him, and you have encouraged the wicked, that he should not turn from his evil way to save his life, (ESV)

Isaiah 31:2 - And yet he is wise and brings disaster; he does not call back his words, but will arise against the house of the evildoers and against the helpers of those who work iniquity. (ESV)

7.7.15 Dishonesty

Isaiah 59:4-8 - No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity. They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched. Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace. (ESV)

7.7.16 Lies and adultery

Jeremiah 23:14 - But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; **they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his evil;** all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah. (ESV)

7.7.17 Iniquity

II Samuel 7:14-15 - I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. (ESV)

Psalms 53:1 - The fool says in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. (ESV)

7.7.18 Profaning what is holy

Leviticus 19:8 - and everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has **profaned what is holy to the LORD**, and that person shall be cut off from his people. (ESV)

7.7.19 Blasphemy

I Samuel 3:13 - And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. (ESV)

7.7.20 Lawlessness is sin - unresponsive and disobedient to God

I John 3:4 - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Isaiah 53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (ESV)

7.7.21 Rebellion against God is sin

Deuteronomy 9:7 - Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. (ESV)

Joshua 1:18 - Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 13:5 - But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. (ESV)

I Samuel 15:23 - For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

7.7.22 Not caring for the innocent

Isaiah 59:7 - Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. (ESV)

7.7.23 Doing evil deeds is sin

Colossians 1:21 - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 4:3 - But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun. (ESV)

Jeremiah 21:12 - O house of David! Thus says the LORD: Execute justice in the morning, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed, lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of your evil deeds. (ESV)

Colossians 1:19-23 - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (ESV)

7.7.24 unjust gain

Proverbs 1:11-19 - If they say, Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse— my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors. (ESV)

Isaiah 57:17 - Because of the iniquity of his unjust gain I was angry, I struck him; I hid my face and was angry, but he went on backsliding in the way of his own heart. (ESV)

II Peter 2:14-16 - They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. (ESV)

Jeremiah 6:13-14 - For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace. (ESV)

7.7.25 dishonesty

Isaiah 59:4 - No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity. (ESV)

7.7.26 idolatry

Jeremiah 16:18 - But first I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:7 - Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. (ESV)

Idolatry is incredibly self-destructive:

Psalms 135:15-18 - The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. **Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them!** (ESV)

But we should worship God and be sanctified:

Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (ESV)

7.7.27 sexual immorality

I Corinthians 10:8-9 - We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (ESV)

7.7.28 carnal, fleshly things, greed and self-indulgence

James 5:5 - You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. (ESV)

Matthew 23:25-26 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. (ESV)

7.7.29 unnatural desire

II Peter 2:14-20 - Having **eyes full of adultery**, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: **an heart they have exercised with covetous practices**; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbade the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, **they allure through the lusts of the flesh**, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. **While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption**: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. (KJV)

II Peter 2:14-20 - They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:8-9 - We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, (ESV)

Paul talks about the 'flesh' mainly as ungodliness.

Colossians 2:23 - These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (ESV)

Defiling passion defiles:

II Peter 2:10 - and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, (ESV)

Jude 1:7 - just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. (ESV)

7.7.30 Rape is very, very bad

Deuteronomy 22:23-29 - If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. But if in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man seizes her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbor, because he met her in the open country, and though the betrothed young woman cried for help there was no one to rescue her. If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found, then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days. (ESV)

7.7.31 Being habitually drunk is sinful

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

I think John Piper's view on this is sound:

youtube.com: Is Drinking Alcohol a Sin? It could be. Drinking water when you should be giving a glass to someone else in need - that's sin. Drinking water when you should be paying more reverence to the preaching of God's word - that's a sin. Drinking water when just someone just warned you it's contaminated it may kill you - that sin. So drinking water can be sin and presumably then alcohol could be sin, but it may not be.

youtube.com: CAN CHRISTIANS DRINK/SMOKE?! {The Harsh Truth...}

youtube.com: 'Nothing Is to Be Rejected' - Including Pot? {@desiringGod} In what ways would you qualify Paul's "nothing is to be rejected" because that is really the issue. The issue is not "what can I give thanks for". Paul teaches that we should give thanks for everything.

Ephesians 5:20 - giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (ESV)

But that does not mean give moral approval to everything. It means, rather, that we recognize that in the providence of God, He makes everything serve his wise and loving purposes, even some very painful and even sinful things. So, I don't think the key question is: what should we thank God for? When Paul said in

I Timothy 4:4 - For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, (ESV)

He's saying that's why everything exists, namely to reveal the goodness of God and to awaken in the human soul thanksgiving. In other words, we should only use creation, all of it, the way it was designed to be used, namely with thanksgiving.

What does Paul mean when he says nothing in creation is to be rejected? and I think he means nothing is to be rejected because it is ritually unclean. According to Mark 7:19 Jesus declared all foods clean,. so they're all lawful, not to be rejected. None of the Old Testament dietary laws applies anymore. They were a temporary way for Israel to set itself off from the nations. The church doesn't aim to set itself off from the nations in that way anymore with food laws. Nothing is ritually unclean for the Christian in that sense. It's lawful, it's all lawful. None is to be rejected as ritually off limits. Which also means that the false teachers in first Timothy before uh who were forbidding marriage and requiring abstinence from foods were falling back into the old legal way rather than walking in the freedom of Christ.

I mean, pot may be fine medicinally or recreationally if it's not harming people:

youtube.com: 'Nothing Is to Be Rejected' - Including Pot? {@desiringGod} @time: 5 min 50 sec
And I think there are at least three principles that Paul mentions as to what do we do with nature, the goodness of nature? One principle is love.

I Corinthians 10:23-24 - All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. (ESV)

So we do not simply say I'm free and all foods are clean and that's that I eat what I want. No, that's not the way a Christian talks. We ask, will it be helpful? Will it be profitable? Will other people benefit from my enjoyment of this use of this, doing of this, that's the principle of love.

And then in 1 Corinthians 6:12 he brings out two other principles, I think. He says, "all things are lawful for me" (same beginning, but he continues differently) but not all things are helpful, all things are lawful for me, but I will not be **dominated**, controlled, taken over, enslaved by anything, even good things.

Here the principle looks the same as First Corinthians 10, but it's not quite. Instead of saying, seek the good of your neighbor in what you eat, he says, "I will not be dominated or enslaved by anything".

You might say this is the principle of self-love, a proper self-love. Be watchful not to be addicted, be watchful not to be damaged. I think those would be the two principles. Is it tending toward my slavery, that making me a slave - I'm out of control here, I'm utterly dependent on this thing, and is it hurting me is it doing me damage as my master? So three principles at least, put limits on the statement "nothing is to be rejected". One, **love**. Will it help or hurt others? Two, **addiction**. Will I be enslaved? Is it enslaving me? Three, damage to my body or soul, will it dominate me hurtfully?

But maybe the clearest way to show Jameson's friends that they don't really mean it when they say that since everything is that God made is good, absolutely nothing's to be rejected, they don't mean that because they know good and well that there are mushrooms that will kill you if you eat them, there are some people with such severe peanut allergies they would die if they eat a peanut. They won't even let you have peanuts on the airplane when these people are on board.

They don't serve peanuts they know this, these friends know this, they make distinctions themselves. So the question is, whether cannabis is helpful to others when we use. It is addicting to my mind, is it hurtful to the mind or to the soul? Those the key questions.

Smoking and doing drugs, weed, etc. is all of the flesh. Absolutely. Fast and pray to feed our spirit.
youtube.com: Signs You Are Under HEAVY Spiritual Attack {@MarcTheMessengerLive}

Also, this was helpful:

youtube.com: CANNABIS AND CHRISTIANITY {@FatherSpyridonROCOR} In fact sobriety of the mind is one of the key essential components of the spiritual life and the [church] fathers warn us against everything that will distract us from this pursuit of sobriety of mind. Cannabis reduces our ability to develop and maintain sobriety of mind, sobriety which is a spiritual sobriety and the [church] fathers do identify this as one of the main impediments to spiritual change to just to perception of truth when our mind is filled with fantasy and imaginings then to identify truth the revealed truth of god becomes impossible. Now some argue that cannabis opens us up to the spiritual insights that they believe they are capable of or even dare I say visions. Some people will claim particularly in these shamanistic cults to have visions under the influence of cannabis, marijuana. Saint John Cassian warns us that to attempt to open the noetic eyes through drugs is sorcery. It is sorcery. God has dimmed the noetic sight to protect us. It is for our benefit. There are great ascetics those who have progressed in the spiritual life for whom these visions are revealed but for the majority of us it is hugely dangerous to do anything to artificially open noetic sight. It leaves us spiritually vulnerable.

youtube.com: Questions & Answers | Bishop Mari Emmanuel | {@SacredScripts} Imagination is a beautiful gift from the Good God. It's a good gift from the Good God. All of us, we imagine. Through our imagination, we can go to heaven, we can go anywhere we want to go with imagination, there is no limit. God imagines. Since he created us in His image, whatever he is and has He has placed in this human being. This imagination, when it gets tarnished it will affect your subconscious mind. It will shape, mold and form your subconscious mind. And guess what? Before you know it, since you have no control over the subconscious mind, the moment it is shaped and affected, the subconscious mind will send it to the conscience the rational mind. When it gets to your rational mind you're gone.

Here's some more thoughts:

youtube.com: Is Smoking Marijuana Sinful? {@OrthodoxEthos} I would say that there are saints who say smoking period let alone marijuana is sinful and needs to be repented of. And we have St. John of Kronstad, St. Nicodemos of the holy mountain, St. Silan the Aanite. Uh, they don't come down hard, but they definitely say it's a missing of the mark. In other words, a sin, right? It's a missing of the mark. That's what sin is. What? A missing of what mark? Theosis. Not some moralistic, can I? Can I? Can I not do it? Can I do it? We're not like minimalistic. What's the minimum that I have to do to be a Christian? No, this is I want to be in the likeness of Christ. That's why he came to make me like himself. Smoking is not in that picture. We have no image of that. We don't have anybody in an icon with a cigarette. Doesn't exist. Right? That's not an image of virtue. There's no elder spiritual father that I know in this life that would say, "Go for it. Have a smoke or two. You're good."

[youtube.com: Questions & Answers | Bishop Mari Emmanuel | ? {@SacredScripts}](#) @time: 9 min 4 sec

If you want to listen to a song, listen to a song that has the name of Jesus Christ in it,. to cleanse your way of thinking, to purify your imagination, because when the name of Jesus enters through the door of imagination it purifies your imagination. Guess what? Imagination is the way for you ending up worshiping God or Satan. Did you know this? It is the imagination that will take me later on onto faith and then worshiping God. But if the imagination is not pure, I will be robbed and go to the dark side. Satan will take over. So we need to purify this imagination. How do we do it? Only God can. I need to be clinging to the word of the Lord. Listen to songs,. make them songs that are about the Lord, praising God. Something that is pure.

7.7.32 Slavery

I Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, **enslavers** (G405 andrapodistés, man-stealers, kidnappers, slave-traders, enslavers), liars, perjurors, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

7.7.33 Abortion

Abortion specifically has been condemned as a grave sin since the beginnings of the Church.

The Church has **always** stood against abortion, and placed it right alongside murder.

Didache Chapter 2 - The Second Commandment: Grave Sin Forbidden. And the second commandment of the Teaching; You shall not commit murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not commit pederasty, you shall not commit fornication, you shall not steal, you shall not practice magic, you shall not practice witchcraft, **you shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is born**. You shall not covet the things of your neighbor, you shall not swear, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not speak evil, you shall bear no grudge. You shall not be double-minded nor double-tongued, for to be double-tongued is a snare of death. Your speech shall not be false, nor empty, but fulfilled by deed. You shall not be covetous, nor rapacious, nor a hypocrite, nor evil disposed, nor haughty. You shall not take evil counsel against your neighbor. You shall not hate any man; but some you shall reprove, and concerning some you shall pray, and some you shall love more than your own life.

[youtube.com: Girls told to remove Christian crosses at religious school hit out against staff](#) @time: 2 min

Have a look at this exchange over the weekend. While Kamala Harris was promoting *abortion* without limits, the entire crowd erupted into loud cheers. But then a lone student in the crowd who is a Christian, and so pro-life, called out "Jesus is Lord". Now, instinctively and without pause Kamala mocked him telling him he was at the "wrong rally".

We should fear God. God sees the thoughts and intentions of our heart.

Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (ESV)

We should fear God and not mankind. We should fear God and not any human institution. We should fear God and not fear being unpopular for standing up for what is right.

These people feared God and chose to not murder babies. Children are a gift and God literally gave families to people who fear Him. I guess God doesn't want to give families to people who can't be trusted with them.

Exodus 1:15-17 - Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live. **But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.** (ESV)

Exodus 1:20-21 - So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. (ESV)

7.7.34 More sins condemned by the early Church

Didache Chapter 3 - Other Sins Forbidden. My child, flee from every evil thing, and from every likeness of it. Be not prone to anger, for anger leads to murder. Be neither jealous, nor quarrelsome, nor of hot temper, for out of all these murders are engendered. My child, be not a lustful one. for lust leads to fornication. Be neither a filthy talker, nor of lofty eye, for out of all these adulteries are engendered. My child, be not an observer of omens, since it leads to idolatry. Be neither an enchanter, nor an astrologer, nor a purifier, nor be willing to look at these things, for out of all these idolatry is engendered. My child, be not a liar, since a lie leads to theft. Be neither money-loving, nor vainglorious, for out of all these thefts are engendered. My child, be not a murmurer, since it leads the way to blasphemy. Be neither self-willed nor evil-minded, for out of all these blasphemies are engendered. Rather, be meek, since the meek shall inherit the earth. Be long-suffering and pitiful and guileless and gentle and good and always trembling at the words which you have heard. You shall not exalt yourself, nor give over-confidence to your soul. Your soul shall not be joined with lofty ones, but with just and lowly ones shall it have its intercourse. Accept whatever happens to you as good, knowing that apart from God nothing comes to pass.

There are heaps more things described as sinful and abomination in the Bible which I have not mentioned.

8 If the world is encouraging you, you're probably in falsehood or taking the wide road

John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. (ESV)

John 15:18-19 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

I John 3:13 - Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

Paul and the other faithful Apostles were exhibited as last of all, like men sentenced to death for following Jesus:

I Corinthians 4:6-16 - I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like

the scum of the world, the refuse of all things. I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me. (ESV)

9 The times of ignorance are past

Now God commands **all people** everywhere to repent:

Acts 17:30-31 - The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **he commands all people everywhere to repent**, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (ESV)

Acts 14:15-17 - Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. **In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.** Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness. (ESV)

10 Common grace

God's common grace extends to even the evil:

Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (ESV)

Jesus is so generous that He saves even unthankful people, but we should definitely love Jesus as a response. This story should be taken to see how Good God is, but also taken as a warning against unthankfulness:

Luke 17:11-19 - On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. When he saw them he said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And he said to him, Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Mercies {New Every Morning} {Live from Trafalgar Square} - Matt Redman

We are meant to exercise common grace to other people.

Luke 6:35-36 - But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

When we pray, we should desire to **do** God's will, as Jesus has prayed for us to remain here to do His will:

Matthew 6:9-12 - Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (ESV)

Jesus has us remaining here to be sanctified in the Truth:

John 17:15-17 - I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Jesus wants us to do God's will, and love Him and be obedient to Him:

John 8:41-44 - You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would **love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

God has common grace for evildoers, and for the unjust, and Jesus wants us to help work that common grace into the lives of other people:

Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (ESV)

See, our actions reflect who our Father is:

Luke 6:35-36 - But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

Talk youtube.com: Christianity is God saves us & we respond to obey, not the other way

11 Justification - declared 'not guilty', if in Christ Jesus

Jesus is God revealed in the flesh.

I think, that means that if a person **loves** (is obedient to) and has faith in Him, they are most likely saved.

11.1 We must *live by faith - live by obedience to God!*

Jesus will manifest to those who keep His commandments:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Jesus comes to dwell in our hearts through faith, His spirit in our inner being, as we are rooted and grounded in love:

Ephesians 3:14-21 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with

all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to **know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge**, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

The followers of Paul the Apostle live by (walk by) faith; those are the righteous ones. It's a lifestyle:

Galatians 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. (ESV)

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

Habakkuk 2:4 - Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:7 - for we walk by faith, not by sight. (ESV)

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (ESV)

Being firm in our faith, we can resist:

I Peter 5:8-9 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (ESV)

11.2 We must be found in Jesus

Ephesians 2:18 - For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: (ESV)

Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Colossians 1:14 - in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

Colossians 2:10 - and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:21 - And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, (ESV)

Colossians 3:3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (ESV)

11.2.1 I believe we have to remain in Christ to remain justified

John 15:1-10 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Read <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/is-justification-ongoing>

I'm putting a caveat here. It's an act of obedience to put your faith in Jesus Christ because God commanded it, and Jesus commanded it.

Our works (our ongoing deeds after initially placing our faith in Jesus) of obedience as Christians don't earn our initial justification. How could they, since such deeds follow and flow from it? The Council of Trent says as much when it observes that "we are therefore said to be justified gratuitously, because none of those things that precede justification, whether faith or works, merit the grace of justification" (Session Six, Chapter VIII).

At the same time, works of Christian obedience contribute something if the term justification is used to refer not merely to our initial justification, but to our growth in righteousness as regenerated children of God. This is the justification to which James refers when he writes that "a man is justified by works and not by faith alone" (James 2:24).

When Paul contrasts faith with works, it's clear from the context (Romans 3:1; Romans 4:9-12) he means works of the Mosaic Law — ritual prescriptions such as circumcision given to identify one as a Jew, to convict of sin, and to point to the Redeemer who would remit sin. This is different from works of Christian obedience which lead to righteousness (Rom. 6:16). With respect to the latter, even faith itself can be spoken of as obedience (Rom. 1:5; Rom. 16:26).

If the gratuitousness of sanctification isn't undermined by its capacity for increase through obedience or loss through disobedience, why should justification be? Only by assuming that justification is unalterable—an assumption grammatical arguments about the aorist tense will not uphold—could we conclude that increasing or decreasing in justification is, per se, incompatible with justification by grace.

Works of obedience which contribute to our sanctification are as much the result of grace as is our faith. This is why Paul can say, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to work" (Phil. 2:12). As Augustine puts it, "When God rewards our merits, he rewards his own gifts to us."

Being broken off I think means being unjustified:

Romans 11:17-25 - But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even

they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (ESV)

And being unjustified is the same as being disobedient to God to the command of faith:

Romans 11:30-35 - Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? (ESV)

II Timothy 2:12-13 - if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Titus 1:15-16 - To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

So we should not deny Jesus. Rather, we should deny ourselves and follow Jesus:

Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus told his disciples, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (ESV)

The answer I think is that God disciplines and chastises even those who He justifies and no-one aside from God Himself can graft a person out (unjustify?) aside from Father God. And if God unjustifies then only God can put a person back in again:

Romans 8:33-34 - Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (ESV)

11.3 The ones who are in Jesus have been called out of darkness and into His light

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:38 - but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. (ESV)

Romans 1:17 - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, The righteous shall live by faith. (ESV)

11.4 Don't envy evildoers

Psalms 37:1-4 - Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! Of David. For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (ESV)

Psalms 37:5-7 - Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! (ESV)

11.5 Sanctification (turning from sin and being cleaned) is a marker of those who are in Jesus

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

We should also ask God to sanctify us, and we should will to be sanctified. God wants us to be sanctified, and to depart from impurity:

I John 5:14-15 - And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

11.6 We are justified by faith in God who delivered up for our trespasses and raised Jesus Christ from

Galatians 5:4 - You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. (ESV)

Galatians 2:16 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (ESV)

Galatians 3:24 - So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. (ESV)

We have to have faith which is characteristic of Abraham's faith, but with regards to following the Lord Jesus. It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

Our justification comes from having trusting faith in God our Father, who has raised from the dead Jesus Christ our **Lord** (our brother who we obey); the Jesus Christ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised from the dead for our justification.

Obeying God is obeying Jesus. Having faith in God is having faith in Jesus.

He was raised **for** our justification; now in order to be justified by faith, we simply need to put our faith in Him - we need to trust Jesus Christ.

Trusting in Jesus should result in following Him, believing Jesus' words, walking as he walked, entrusting ourselves to Father God who judges righteously.

We have to die to our old self and live for Christ, simply abiding in Him.

II Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

If we walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised, and are doing the will of God, then we would love Jesus and Jesus helps us:

John 8:39-40 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:16-18 - For surely it is not angels that he helps, but **he helps the offspring of Abraham**. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For **because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.** (ESV)

Mark 3:35 - Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

If we walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised, but having faith in God by obeying Jesus Christ who was raised for our justification then we have Jesus Christ's righteousness; we have the righteousness of faith in God.

Romans 4:22-23 - That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness. But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, (ESV)

And the promise will be ours also, because Jesus is our Lord, and we belong to Him.

Romans 4:24-25 - but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

Abraham is the the father of all who believe without being circumcised, and the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. The circumcised are the ones who keep the precepts of the law by faith - so the law must be combined with the faith of Abraham:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

The true circumcised are the ones who obey the precepts of the law, and if they walk in the footsteps of faith which Abraham had before he was circumcised, then that is a valid mode of justification. But we continue to abide in Christ's teachings/doctrines and the facts about Him as we learn more of His words commandments, are corrected/salted and sanctified by Him:

Romans 2:25-29 - For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. So, **if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?** Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But **a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.** (ESV)

So if we have the faith that Abraham had in his walk before circumcision, such as when he refused the gifts from the king of Sodom, or when he put Isaac on the Altar, but in regards to following Jesus. We must give up our old life to live for Christ:

Genesis 14:21-23 - And the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself. But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich. (ESV)

So what Jesus is saying is quite similar:

Luke 9:23-24 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (ESV)

Now it makes sense to me how Zacchaeus received salvation:

Luke 19:8-9 - And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Golden Stitches of Sovereignty: What Holds Our Gospel Together @time: 39 min 22 s

So the first self, Jesus says, is going to be lost forever. Whoever would save his life will lose it. And the second self is gonna live forever. Whoever loses his life for me, for me, because you fall in love with me, you've seen me, you love me, you're satisfied with me, your treasuring me. I'm everything to you. You live forever. You're on the road. And you stay on it through death and resurrection and we live together, forever.

11.7 Justified by our words

Matthew 12:37 - for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (ESV)

11.8 Justified by grace

Titus 3:7 - so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

youtube.com: God Is No Longer Against Us

Romans 5:2 - Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

Christ keeps us standing. His grace is actively making us stand:

Romans 14:4 - Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (ESV)

11.8.1 Justified by faith following Jesus

We have peace with God:

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through **our Lord Jesus Christ**. (ESV)

11.8.2 When James mentions "justification by works", he actually is referring to justification by obedient faith (obedient faith is still faith)

I guess that a person may simply become aware through reading the word that faith has been commanded where previously they may have had the required faith but didn't know it was commanded.

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

James 2:25 - And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (ESV)

Hebrews 11:31 links obedience to works in **James 2:25**:

Hebrews 11:31 - By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (ESV)

11.8.3 Justified by the blood of Jesus, received through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord

The same Apostle Paul wrote these:

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:6-9 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:9 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Lord, I Lift Your Name On High - Petra {Backtrack no guitar?}

The way that Jesus went is the way that we go. The new and living way is the Jesus way:

- self denial
 - **Matthew 16:24** - Then Jesus told his disciples, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (ESV)
 - **Mark 8:35** - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (ESV)
 - **I John 2:15-17** - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)
 - **I Peter 4:12-19** - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those **who do not obey the gospel of God?** And **If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.** (ESV)

- obedience
 - **Acts 5:32** - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)
 - **Hebrews 5:9** - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)
 - **I John 3:24** - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)
- sacrifice
 - **John 15:13** - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)
- death
 - **Mark 8:35** - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (ESV)
 - **II Timothy 3:12-17** - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

We are sanctified by the Father in the way that Jesus was made perfect. We are made perfect the same way He was made perfect, by the sufferings that come through obedience to God's will.

Hebrews 2:10-11 - For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (ESV)

Matthew 26:39-42 - And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will. And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done. (ESV)

Thee same way Jesus went is the Way, the new and living way, the Jesus way:

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

Receiving this is a mixture of belief and obedience towards Jesus. Faith is a mixture of belief and obedience.

I Peter 2:21 - For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (ESV)

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life - the Only Way to the Father. Amen.

Jesus doesn't say He's the only way to 'heaven', He says He's the only way to Father God.

Now the Kingdom of Heaven is something different. Jesus is the only way into the Kingdom of Heaven and the only way into Holy Jerusalem.

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:9-11 - Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (ESV)

Jesus is the bread of Life.

Satan can probably make spiritually wicked 'heavenly' stuff happen to us to try to deceive us.

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers (G746 arché), against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:9-10 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (ESV)

Revelation of John 13:14 - and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. (ESV)

We focus on Jesus, keep His words, believe His words, practice His commandments, imitate Him, etc. reject falsehood, accept the Truth and the Truth is in Jesus. We do this and Jesus saves us.

youtube.com: The Way, the Truth, & the Life: Knowing Christ - The I AM Sayings of Jesus with R.C. Sproul

There is such a unity here in the Godhead between the Father and the Son that if you see the Son, you see the Father. If you know the Son, you know the Father. And conversely, if you know the Father, you know the Son. This was the point of dispute that Jesus had with the Pharisees who claimed to be disciples of God the Father but who rejected Jesus. And He said to them, look, if you know the Father, you have to believe in the Son, because the Father bears witness to Me. And so the way to the Father is through the Son. The way to see the Father is to see the Son. The way to get to the Father is to go through the Son.

John 14:1-7 - Let not your hearts be troubled. **Believe in God; believe also in me.** In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And **you know the way to where I am going.** Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? **Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. (ESV)

John 8:48-59 - The Jews answered him, Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon? Jesus answered, I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death. The Jews said to him, Now we know that you

have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be? Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God. But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am**. So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. (ESV)

Obedience to God is an act of faith: (**Hebrews 11**). On the flip side, disobedience flows from unbelief/faithlessness:

I Timothy 1:13 - though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, (ESV)

Acting in accordance with faithlessness is sinful behaviour:

I Timothy 1:13 - even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I **acted** (G4160 poieo) **ignorantly** (G50 agnoeo) in **unbelief** (G570 apaistia i.e. faithlessness, disobedience); (NASB)

1 : 570 apaistia ap-is-tee'-ah
2
3 from 571; faithlessness, i.e. (negatively) disbelief (lack of
4 Christian faith), or (positively) unfaithfulness
5 (disobedience):--unbelief.
6 see GREEK for 571

bibletools.org - apaistia faithlessness

The wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience:

Ephesians 5:5-7 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;

That means that justifying faith involves obeying Jesus:

Romans 5:8-11 - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

We trust in His name. If you trust in Jesus you are not judged:

John 3:18 - He who believes (G4100 pisteuo) in Him is not judged; he who does not believe (G4100 pisteuo) has been judged (G2919 krino) already (G2235 ede), because he has not believed (G4100 pisteuo) in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NASB)

It's true that we must "be believing", and continue believing:

John 3:14-21 - ‘And as Moses did lift up the serpent in the wilderness, so it behoveth the Son of Man to be lifted up, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during, for God did so love the world, that His Son—the only begotten—He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during. For God did not send His Son to the world that he may judge the world, but that the world may be saved through him; he who is believing in him is not judged, but he who is not believing hath been judged already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ‘And this is the judgment, that the light hath come to the world, and men did love the darkness rather than the light, for their works were evil; for every one who is doing wicked things hateth the light, and doth not come unto the light, that his works may not be detected; but he who is doing the truth doth come to the light, that his works may be manifested, that in God they are having been wrought.’ (YLT)

John 3:32-36 - ‘And what he hath seen and heard this he doth testify, and his testimony none receiveth; he who is receiving his testimony did seal that God is true; for he whom God sent, the sayings of God he speaketh; for not by measure doth God give the Spirit; the Father doth love the Son, and all things hath given into his hand; he who is believing in the Son, hath life age-during; and he who is not believing the Son, shall not see life, but the wrath of God doth remain upon him.’ (YLT)

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment. Indeed, he has crossed over from death to life. (engbsb2020eb)

John 5:24 - ‘Verily, verily, I say to you—He who is hearing my word, and is believing Him who sent me, hath life age-during, and to judgment he doth not come, but hath passed out of the death to the life. (YLT)

True faith is faith which results in us agape loving those who have faith in Jesus Christ:

I John 3:14-15 - We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a murderer. (engbsb2020eb)

We are fine to rebuke family in Christ who sin:

Luke 17:3-4 - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, I repent, you must forgive him. (ESV)

We are to hate sin. Jude says we can hate sin and the product of sin whilst showing mercy to them, and we show mercy with fear (the fear of God):

Jude 1:20-23 - But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. (ESV)

The free gift of justification is **received through faith** in God.

And I believe we need a trusting (characteristically believing and obedient) heart towards Jesus to receive this justification.

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

Trust God’s Word given through Jesus:

John 5:24-26 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (2064. erchomai) into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

It's not about putting our hope on compliance to the Mosaic law to save us but it's about obeying Jesus / loving Jesus / trusting Jesus, and the compliance to God's law will come naturally while obeying Jesus.

The justifying work is finished - Jesus finished it, now we follow Him through the same way he went, by trusting in Him to save us, believing Him, obeying Him and remaining faithful to Him. We want to be teachable by Him and to affirm the words He has spoken. Our behaviour should change to reflect our belief in what Jesus has spoken. We are forgiven to do the will of God.

Now we need faith to receive it and I believe that faith necessitates love for Jesus, which includes obedience to Jesus, and it's the heart that matters most, because all the work may be burned up but we are still saved, because it's not the work that saves, it's faith, but I believe that faith necessitates love/obedience to Jesus, as one of His sheep.

Romans 3:21-25 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be **received by faith**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (ESV)

11.8.4 Believing the Word of Truth - sealed with the promised Holy Spirit

We had faith in him. We had a faithful, obedient heart, and were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit:

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

I Corinthians 12:13 - For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of **one Spirit**. (ESV)

Paul 'hears of their faith' (their working faith; faith works; otherwise, what is to hear about) and their love toward the saints. (ESV)

Faith in the Lord Jesus means obedience:

Ephesians 1:15-16 - For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, (ESV)

Knowledge of Him results in the heart being enlightened:

Ephesians 1:17-20 - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, (ESV)

Names have power. Jesus' name is above every other name:

Ephesians 1:21 - far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (ESV)

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (ESV)

Philippians 2:9 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (ESV)

11.9 Faith, Law, Works

We must live by and within the law of God:

Proverbs 28:9 - If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (ESV)

Christians are under the law of Christ, which is within the law of God:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

A result of abiding by the law of God and our accountability to God for the law of Christ is that people will love God and one another. On the other hand, as a result of obeying impurity and obeying lawlessness, and as a result of not abiding by the law of God, people's love grows cold, and the willful sinning of obeying impurity and lawlessness leads to an eventual death:

Matthew 24:12 - And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. (ESV)

Even though we are under grace, we must still obey God for the hope of righteousness, and we must not obey impurity, and we must not obey lawlessness. We must obey God, and certainly we must turn from our sin and practice righteousness and we rely on God to help us do that:

Romans 6:14-19 - For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are *not under law but under grace*. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, **you are slaves of the one whom you obey**, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become **slaves of righteousness**. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. (ESV)

I Peter 5:10 - And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (ESV)

By obedience to God we work out our salvation:

Galatians 5:5 - For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. (ESV)

11.9.1 Love is defined by Jesus

Sermon The New Commandment of Christ: 'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' | Desiring God

We must love (not just any way you believe it's defined) but in the same way that Jesus loved us:

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another: just as I have loved you**, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

youtube.com: Hope and the Fruit of Love @time: 2 min 0 sec Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren - there's there's the pillar - therefore, fervently love one another.

So, the first pillar is Soul purifying obedience to the truth. Do we all see that? Since you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth, love.

If you do this you can love. If you don't do this, love falls. If you do this, love stands. So there's pillar number one.

Since there is a soul purifying obedience to the truth, you can love each other.

Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

11.9.2 Christians are not under the Mosaic law because *we are under grace as we are under Christ's law*, but we don't despise the Torah, nor annul it, nor teach others to annul it

I enjoyed this video, but I still am of the opinion that following the full Mosaic law is not necessary, (but not prohibited, so long as it is pursued by faith and submits to God's righteousness):

Debate youtube.com: Public Debate - Should Christians Keep The Law?

Relying on the 'works of the law' for one's righteousness puts a person under a curse:

Galatians 3:10 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.

Abiding by Christ's law (Christ's commandments), which is a law of faith (we're not under the curse of the law of Moses) and is not a law of works (**Romans 3:21-31**), is not being under a curse, but, rather is being under grace:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

The whole world is accountable to God over the law of God:

Romans 3:19-20 - Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (ESV)

The law is still used in judgement, but the one who has faith in Jesus is not condemned.

The law is good and just and Jesus both obeyed it flawlessly, but He also fulfilled it like a prophesy:

Acts 3:18 - But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. (ESV)

John 15:25 - But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: They hated me without a cause. (ESV)

John 18:9 - This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one. (ESV)

Matthew 26:56 - But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples left him and fled. (ESV)

Matthew 5:17 - Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (ESV)

John 18:32 - This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. (ESV)

John 19:24 - so they said to one another, Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be. This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. So the soldiers did these things, (ESV)

John 19:28 - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), I thirst. (ESV)

It was inevitable. The Scripture **had** to be fulfilled:

Acts 1:16 - Brothers, the Scripture **had to be fulfilled**, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. (ESV)

11.9.3 Saying obeying God's commandments are exclusively works is false

For example, to obey a commandment to not work is not works.

Deuteronomy 16:8 - For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it. (ESV)

To obey a commandment to trust in Jesus is not works.

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

Also, to obey a commandment to not covet idols is not considered 'works' but it is required of us to keep the commandment:

I Corinthians 10:9-11 - We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (ESV)

II Corinthians 6:16-18 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

God said that if you stop idolising then the Almighty will become precious to you. You will treasure God, agape love God.

Job 22:24-26 - if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. (ESV)

Those who do not agape love God do not agape love God and God doesn't know them. Agape love is a treasuring love which treasures Jesus and His teachings, God's words and treasures their family in Christ.

Matthew 7:23-24 - And then will I declare to them, **I never knew you**; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

I John 4:20 - If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for **he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen**. (ESV)

I John 5:1-5 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and **everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments**. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

The problem is being required to keep the **whole** law to be justified by it. There is no problem with obedience itself. We want faith working through love. Working faith is what we want:

Galatians 5:1-7 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that **he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace**. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. **Who hindered you from obeying the truth?** (ESV)

11.9.4 Faith in Jesus Christ doesn't exclude obedience. Knowing Jesus is more than knowing about Jesus. About the Galatian error for those who try to use this passage in order to avoid obeying Jesus

Job 22:24-26 - if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. (ESV)

God wants us to love Him, treasure Him (25. agapaó), value Him with all our heart, and love and value
youtube.com: What Is It Like to Enjoy God? @time: 35 min 16 sec

Yeah, I agree with John Piper, for the most part. Loving God is not actually **first** working for God. But it is to truly desire God, and treasure Him (25. agapaó), and treasure His word, and treasure His commandments, to give Him due praise, and to honour God, and give Him the glory, to love Him in the affectionate and treasuring sense is what God wants of us, and Jesus says that if we love Him then we will keep His commandments. Where John Piper says 'affectionate love comes before obedience', I prefer to say that 'treasuring God includes a heart of obedience, trust, belief, desiring God, and affectionate love' and I also think that obedience (being in the will of God) may produce work for God but doesn't strictly mean work. We want to keep His commandments so I believe we should treasure God with all our heart. God also commands us to love one another as ourselves, so we should also love and value other people with that same treasuring love, but God wants Him to be our number one treasure, and I think we have to make God our number one love.

As I understand it, **I John 5:2-3** isn't saying that God's commandments are universally unburdensome to all people. It's saying that when we love God then keeping His commandments is unburdensome. If we're struggling with keeping the commandments of God and struggling with sin then we should make Him our number one love heart's desire and treasure and seek Him first with all our heart and we will be able to find His commandments unburdensome! It's true.

I feel like I could still say, "**Loving God is obedience to God,**" but I would rather rephrase it as, "God in His love gifted me to be able to love Him back and live. I can see in retrospect He had been working in my life and it's awesome and magnificent and I just want to cherish and obey God now, and God made the way for me to do that!"

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that **we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**

Even the Apostle Paul explains that our freedom is for serving one another:

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.** (ESV)

Our freedom is so that we might live to God:

Galatians 2:19 - For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. (ESV)

God is our life. We must love, **obey**, and hold fast to Him. Faith is not without obedience, but we are to obey Jesus Christ and to believe in Jesus is to have begun to obey Him:

Deuteronomy 30:20 - **loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life** and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. (ESV)

God is our life because Christ is our life. Our life is hidden with Christ in God:

Colossians 3:1-4 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (ESV)

I John 5:12 - Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (ESV)

youtube.com: Hope and the Fruit of Love @time: 2 min 0 sec Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren - there's there's the pillar - therefore, fervently love one another.

So, the first pillar is Soul purifying obedience to the truth. Do we all see that? Since you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth, love.

If you do this you can love. If you don't do this, love falls. If you do this, love stands. So there's pillar number one.

Since there is a soul purifying obedience to the truth, you can love each other.

To get to know Jesus, we **must obey** His commandments:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

Christ Jesus has set us free to serve God, living for Him. Obeying Christ Jesus, we are found in Him:

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

In Christ Jesus seek to follow the pattern of His life to get to know Him, and He gave us commandments to follow to do that. Faith in Christ Jesus is not just a belief in the head but faith is trusting Him, and trusting in Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Both our belief in Him and obedience to Him flow from our trust in Him. Anyone who claims to have come to know Jesus but does not do what Jesus says is a liar and they are not in the truth:

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

Galatians 2:1-5 - Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our **freedom that we have in Christ Jesus**, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. (ESV)

Galatians 2:6-9 - And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. (ESV)

We must like, Paul, will to do the will of God:

Romans 7:20-22 - Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

Galatians 2:10 - Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do. (ESV)

Galatians 2:11-15 - But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews? We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; (ESV)

Yes, Jesus has set us free, but it's to serve God by serving Christ. We are freed in order to love and serve God:

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

We *endeavour* to be justified in Christ - in Christ means abiding in Christ - through faith; trusting, believing, obedient faith:

Galatians 2:16-19 - yet we know that a person is not **justified** by works of the law but **through faith** (G4102 *pistis*) in **Jesus Christ**, so we also have believed (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be **justified in Christ**, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. (ESV)

Trusting, believing, obedient faith is faith which trusts Jesus Christ and obeys Jesus Christ's commandments. The word 'law' should not be anathema. It is possible to be justified by obedience to Christ's commandments which include Christ's law, because obedience to Jesus is a part of faith and is an intrinsic quality of faith, as is belief.

Pisteuo means to trust. Trust in God, trust also in God's Son Jesus:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts** (G4100 *pisteuo*) him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

Paul lives by faith in Jesus Christ:

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And **the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.** (ESV)

The Apostle Paul lives by faith in Jesus Christ and that involves trust, belief, obedience, and Paul makes a point about faith being becoming like Jesus Christ, and **seeking** to be found in Christ Jesus. **Obeying Jesus is not contrary to faith in Jesus:**

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I **may gain Christ and be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on **faith** — that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, **becoming like him** in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to **make it my own**, because Christ Jesus has **made me his own.** (ESV)

Galatians 2:21 - I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. (ESV)

11.9.5 Didache

The Didache's estimated range of dating is 50-120 A.D, according to earlychristianwritings.com.

What I like about the Didache is that it upholds righteous living and following God's Great commandments and precepts.

Didache: The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations

I think it's important to live righteously out of love for God and one's neighbour, and out of faith.

That being said, I think God does justify through faith, and I believe faith works. And working may indeed be called faith if the work is done in faith. I also think God likely saves through works because it may be their way of demonstrating faith to Jesus.

11.9.6 Our point of reference

We are sanctified by the Spirit **and** faith in the truth (taking God's words as True and using them to combat lies):

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we should always give thanks (G2168 eucharisteo) to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning (G746 arche) for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit **and** faith (G4102 pistis) in the truth (G225 aletheia). (NASB)

- And the Spirit is the Truth
- And God's Word is Truth
 - God's Words are Truth
 - Jesus is the Truth
- We must have faith in the truth (i.e. believe and trust in the truth)

Deuteronomy 13:4 - You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

Think of Jesus here:

- keep His commandments
- obey His voice
- serve Him
- hold fast to Him

Christians must do this.

It's Jesus' words are forever true:

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

We will be judged by Jesus' own words which God gave Him, unless we accept Him, and accept His words:

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

I believe the following indicates the law exists pretty much forever - there probably isn't an expiry date:

Luke 16:17 - But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (ESV)

John 17:17-19 - Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)

Those who are in the faith can't do anything against the truth.

I think the Apostle here understands that we must test ourselves to see if we are in the faith, and encourage others to test themselves. But interestingly, he says, "not that we may appear to have met the test", and "though we may seem to have failed", as if it may **appear** and **seem** as though others have failed, but that we should **test ourselves**.

Sermon youtube.com: Lord, Savior, and Treasure: The Complex Beauty of Jesus Christ @time: 2 min 44 sec

Though there may seem to be **apparent** paradoxes, and **apparent** contradictions in the Scripture, I think they either resolve or we rest in God, not relying on our own understanding. But I confidently affirm God is True, though I don't understand everything, and I affirm that my spiritual eyesight is getting cleaned up by the Spirit, through faith, and by the washing of the word, and I have confidence that Jesus Christ is in me:

II Corinthians 13:5-8 - Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

Because truth is truth, it is imperishable. Our souls are purified as we obey the Truth - obey the Word of God - obey Jesus. Our souls come out of darkness and into imperishable truth. The good news is the delivered account of everything Jesus said and did, and doesn't contradict. Jesus doesn't contradict Himself, so we can trust the word delivered through Jesus and the apostles. The most important parts have been recorded, and this is the good news, the gospel:

I Peter 1:23-25 - since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:51-58 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

We need to be keepers of Jesus Christ's commandments to put on immortality:

Romans 2:5-11 - But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

Stop sinning by faith in the truth - by faith in Jesus, and trusting obedience in God's words:

1 Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (ESV)

Mark 10:19 - You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. (ESV)

1 John 3:4-9 - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (ESV)

Jesus' words will not pass away:

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

John 6:68 - Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, (ESV)

I Peter 1:23 - since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

I Peter 1:25 - but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Ephesians 1:13,14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

Adhering strictly to the Mosaic law is not needed to be justified by God if we believe in and follow Jesus:

Galatians 3:15-18 - To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, And to offsprings, referring to many, but referring to one, And to your offspring, who is Christ. This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

11.9.7 Purity of heart

The Mosaic law is not really in the same category as the 10 commandments, I believe. The 10 commandments if obeyed in truth **from the heart** would result in a clean heart, I think. So it serves to describe what a pure heart looks like, and the laws we should always try to keep whether Gentile or Jew.

We obey the Truth. We obey Jesus Christ. We obey God. We believe and trust God, even for His finished work on the cross:

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

Even belief must be in the heart:

Romans 10:10- For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

I found the KJV to be accurate for Mark 7:19:

Mark 7:18-23 - And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (KJV)

OK, so then a person's willful disobedience to God's will for them is what is what defiles. But the food itself doesn't defile (For example, if God made a new rule, "don't eat oranges", then willful disobedience to this command would defile). Food would only be unclean in the sense that if the person willfully disobeyed God and ate it then they would defile themselves with it by willful disobedience to the commandment given to them. But for people who are not under the Mosaic Law it would not defile them to eat food which was not commanded to them not to eat. Since the Jews at the time were under the Mosaic Law and under that law, it was unclean to them because it was a matter of whether they would obey God. But the food itself doesn't do any defiling.

Mark 7:19 - because not it enters of him into the heart but into the belly and into the sewer goes out purifying all the food (Interlinear)

1	3754	3756	1531	846	1519	3588	2588	235	1519	3588		
2	hoti	ouk	eispoeuetai	autou	eis	tēn	kardian	all'	eis	tēn		
3	,	,										
4	because	not	it	enters	of	him	into	the	heart	but	into	the
5	Conj	Adv	V-PIM/P-3S	PPro-GM3S	Prep	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Conj	Prep	Art-AFS		
6												
7	2836	2532	1519	3588	856	1607		2511	3956	3588		
8	koilian	kai	eis	ton	aphedrōna	ekporeuetai		katharizōn	panta	ta		
9	,				?							
10	belly	and	into	the	sewer	goes	out	purifying	all	the		
11	N-AFS	Conj	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	V-PIM/P-3S	V-PPA-NMS	Adj-ANP	Art-ANP			
12												
13	1033	[e]										
14	brōmata											
15	.											
16	food											
17	N-ANP											

Evil things coming from the heart of man defile the man. So with good thoughts proceeding from a pure heart, that would purify the man? And this purification I would call "soul purification", the soul being the rest of the spirit-man, I think. So there's the heart, where our faith, trust, love and obedience to God are, and where the word is sown. And the soul / the rest of the soul, and God wants it all to be purified.

11.9.8 We should align our hearts and minds to God's precepts, not submit to worldly precepts which are fictions

Sermon + youtube.com: Unstained from the World: The Battle for Purity - Tim Conway @time: 30 min 28 sec

Colossians 2:20-23,3:1-6 - If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human

precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** (ESV)

James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to **keep oneself unstained from the world.** (ESV)

11.9.9 We must cleanse ourselves of defilement if we want God to use us more, and if we want to see with faith and hear God more clearly

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

youtube.com: Unstained from the World: The Battle for Purity - Tim Conway @time: 46 min 30 sec
This is not a cleansing from guilt - that's not what this is. This is a cleansing from the pollution of the world.

God's servants may remain 'shelved' because they're unfit for use.

Daniel 12:10-12 :: Purify themselves, yea, **make themselves white, yea, refined** are many: and the wicked have done wickedly, and none of the wicked understand, and those acting wisely do understand; (YLT)

II Timothy 2:20-23 - Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, **if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use**, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. (ESV)

This is a sanctifying cleansing. We are sanctified by obedience to the Truth, faith in Christ, obedience to Christ, trust in Christ:

John 15:3 - Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:25-26 - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (ESV)

Since we await Jesus, we want to be found by Him without spot or blemish. We're supposed to put a stop to sin, fall out of agape love with the world, and be sanctified:

II Peter 3:13-14 - But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, **be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.** (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:14 - Blessed are **those who wash their robes**, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (ESV)

Our relationship with God is based on our purity, not just our forgiveness:

II Corinthians 6:16-18 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, **and touch no unclean thing**; then **I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me**, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

Though we are God's children, we should purify ourself as He is pure. Everyone who has this hope acts on that hope:

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

11.9.10 Impurity lies the heart

Luke 11:41 - But give as alms those things **that are within**, and behold, everything is clean for you. (ESV)

Matthew 15:19 - For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. (ESV)

Matthew 5:28 - But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has **already committed adultery with her in his heart**.

Proverbs 6:25 - Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; (ESV)

Yes, adultery includes looking at pornography, and fantasizing over it. Yes, adultery includes looking at AI-generated pornography as well.

Revelation of John 2:23 - and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am **he who searches mind and heart**, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve.

Similarly, the heart can be trained in greed, always looking to make more money from people. That's sinful thinking too:

II Peter 2:14 - They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have **hearts trained in greed**. Accursed children!

II Corinthians 5:11-12 - Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commanding ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

11.9.11 Purifying the heart and the soul

Having faith in Jesus and obeying God, we are given the Holy Spirit. As we hold faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit cleanses our hearts by faith. As we obey Jesus, going against the resistance, our souls are being cleansed.

derekprince.com: Take Heed That You Are Not Deceived | Sermon | Derek Prince Ministries "People will tell you, "But the Holy Spirit wouldn't dwell in an unclean vessel." That's wrong The Holy Spirit does dwell in unclean vessels. If He didn't, we'd have no hope. Without Him we cannot be purified, so we need Him. It's like if a professor at the university would say to his class, "Now when you've passed your exams, I'll teach you." And they'd say, "But, professor, we need you teach us to pass our exam." After all, David committed adultery and murder and prayed "Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me." And God didn't. Aren't you glad the Holy Spirit doesn't leave you every time you do something wrong?" Derek Prince

God (who knows the heart) gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles who had trusted/believed the word of truth, just as he had given the Holy Spirit to those Jews who had believed, and God cleansed their hearts by faith. The Apostle Peter made a point that he (Peter) and the other Apostles were also relying on the grace of God, believing that they (the Apostles) **would be saved**, just as the Gentiles who believed would be saved:

Acts 15:5-11 - But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses. The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And **God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.** Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples **that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?** But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will. (ESV)

Also, Luke 11:13 says God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. So I think it's typical to believe God, believing the gospel, and to ask God for His Holy Spirit, expecting that God will cleanse our heart through faith, being prepared to continue obeying the truth for a sincere brotherly love:

Luke 11:13 - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (ESV)

The same Apostle Peter made a point here about how we obey the Truth for a sincere brotherly love from a pure heart, purifying our souls. We believe and obey the good news, the gospel:

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by your **obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;** for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but **the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.** (ESV)

We must serve God from a heart purified by the gospel, purified by faith in Jesus:

- **Step 1 and ongoing:** Believe the gospel (good news), the word of the Lord, the words of Christ (even words such as the sermon on the mount), cleansing our heart by faith. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that the Father is in Him and He in the Father. Believe that Jesus did and does the works of His Father. We believe Father God by believing in Jesus:

– The heart is purified by faith in the Truth, God's Word, Jesus Christ, the Holy Scripture. We believe the gospel, be corrected by and come into agreement with God's Word. We become single-minded:

- * **Acts 15:8-9** - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)
- * **James 4:8** - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)
- * **John 5:24** - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and **believes him** who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)
- * **John 10:35-38** - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, **I am the Son of God?** If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. (ESV)

- Hold fast to the gospel.
- **Step 2 and ongoing:** Love one another earnestly from a pure heart, obeying the Truth who is Jesus and the Truth which is the Word of God, even the Scripture.
 - The soul is purified by obeying the Truth for a sincere brotherly love issuing from a pure heart. This obedience to the Truth is primarily continuing to obey Jesus who is the Truth and our Lord and Master and may be done while observing the Law (Torah) which is useful for correction and training in righteousness, but we do not call the Law our Master. We are primarily slaves to Jesus who is our Righteousness. We don't teach against following the Law by faith but we follow Jesus first and foremost and have freedom as we do this, and the law doesn't condemn us as we are following Jesus.
 - * **I Peter 1:1-2** - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ** and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (ESV)
 - Also we continue holding fast to the gospel.
 - * **Hebrews 10:37-39** - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)
 - **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)
 - This heart and soul purification involves our family in Christ. It involves loving and forgiving one another, not wronging each other, and cleansing ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit. It's necessary to separate from idolators in order to be received by God and to be sons and daughters to God. There's no partnership between righteousness and lawlessness. And being the temple of God involves turning away from false gods and separating from idolators. II Cor 6:14-8 makes it clear that faith, belief in Jesus involves repentance from sin and walking in God's commandments and including worshiping and serving one True God only. Being a son or daughter of God involves turning away from false gods. God gives the promise and we respond to that promise by turning away from false gods and turning away from other forms of sin, and this turning from sin is necessary to be a child of the Most High God:
 - * **Acts 4:32** - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. (ESV)
 - * **II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1** - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.** (ESV)

· "be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you". This is a **conditional** promise. It's not promising *without* the condition. God's promising that **if** we separate from the lawless unbelievers and touch no unclean thing, then He will welcome us and be a Father to us.

* **I John 3:3** - And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (ESV)

* **I John 3:15** - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

So you see that whoever hopes in Jesus (has faith in Jesus) purifies himself as He is pure by obedience to the Truth. So this is really about turning away from sin, even after having come to faith in Jesus:

I John 3:2-7 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him**. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:34 - Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (ESV)

We must have been switched to be doing works in Christ. We are saved from God's wrath to come. Believe on the finished work of Christ:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

Walk obedient to the truth:

Romans 2:6-8 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

Romans 5:9 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (ESV)

Romans 13:5 - Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:9-10 - For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

Colossians 3:5-6 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. (ESV)

If we have faith in Jesus then we obey Jesus' commandments when presented with opportunities. We walk by faith, not sight. When other people discourage you from following Jesus' commandments, but you choose to obey Jesus anyway, this is overcoming the enemy by faith:

II Corinthians 5:7 - for we **walk by faith**, not by sight. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:8-10 - But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. (ESV)

Do what Jesus says and receive eternal life - obey Jesus:

Romans 6:13-23 - Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching** to which you were committed*, and, having been set free from sin, have become **slaves of righteousness**. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

11.9.12 Being a slave to righteousness is possible without adhering to the Mosaic law, by being led by Jesus' Spirit

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord. (ESV)

God through Jesus is the source of our personal righteousness as we are found in Him, and our righteousness comes through Him. That personal righteousness doesn't belong to us alone, but it also belongs to Christ because it comes from Christ:

Philippians 1:9-11 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

We are set free from sin and become slaves of God (so we obey God!!) and the obedience leads to sanctification, and leads to righteousness:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (ESV)

11.9.13 If a person is led by the Spirit then the Lord Jesus is in control of their life, which means that person obeys Jesus' commandments:

Faith is the action word. We must be followers of Jesus Christ, not putting ourselves back under the law of Moses to seek justification through it.

Faith receives and continues to receive the supply of the Spirit and we are led by the Spirit:

Galatians 3:1-5 - O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you **receive the Spirit** by works of the law or by **hearing with faith**? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who **supplies the Spirit** to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: The Law Refutes Justification by Law: Galatians 3:6a??9, Part 1

Faith receives and continues to receive the supply of the Spirit. So a person needs to be having faith in Jesus to be led by the Spirit.

Sanctification is personal righteousness that is fruit that comes from being in Jesus Christ, Him being our righteousness - we're grafted into Jesus like branches on a tree and become healthier. We must and **should** forsake sin and obey Jesus.

We must live in the spirit the way God does, not for human passions, but for the will of God:

I Peter 4:1-6 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might **live in the spirit the way God does**. (ESV)

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him**. (ESV)

11.9.14 We must have attention to Jesus Christ our Lord

We are saved from our sins, and from our evil practices.

Jeremiah 7:9-10 - Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered!—only to go on doing all these abominations? (ESV)

We are made a new man in Christ Jesus by the power of **the Holy Spirit**.

Matthew 12:33 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. (ESV)

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Holiness Demanded - Charles Spurgeon Sermon

Sermon youtube.com: Eternal Security - Charles Spurgeon Sermon

11.9.15 Make the tree good and the fruit good

We must simultaneously make the tree good (abide in Jesus) and make the fruit good (be sanctified and glorify God and Jesus in our hearts, minds, bodies and actions).

Matthew 12:33-37 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (ESV)

As we make the tree good, we make the fruit good!

I still think the 10 commandments are special, and following them in truth is repenting from sin.

Mark 10:19 - You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. (ESV)

Acts 15:28-29 - For it has seemed good to **the Holy Spirit** and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

11.9.16 Judgement

I certainly affirm that Jesus will return to save those waiting for Him, and I currently am waiting for His return:

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

Jesus went to the place of the dead so people who had died (those who Paul is referring to here) may also be saved. Also, it seems that the rapture doctrine was made known from a word from the Lord:

I Thessalonians 4:14-17 - For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (ESV)

Ultimately, we are waiting for incorruptible bodies, and I totally believe in rapture and ultimately a completely new heavens and earth (not just a renewal, although **I do believe God is still taking care of and reigning on the earth**), so I think that whatever Paul the Apostle is referring to here, *well I have my speculations*, is something more imminent, and perhaps more to do with **God's kingdom work on the earth**, but I still hold the eschatological view that there is ultimately an entirely new heavens and earth without any corruption:

I Corinthians 7:29-31 - This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

Psalms 37:27-29 - Turn away from evil and do good so shall you dwell forever. For the LORD loves justice he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. (ESV)

Habakkuk 2:12-14 - Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? For **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea**. (ESV)

Revelation of John 11:15 - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. (ESV)

Also, I do not affirm reincarnation, but I think the truth is that it is appointed for man to die once, and after that, judgement, and the LORD creates an **entirely new** heavens and a new earth. No recycling. No reincarnation. I await the second coming of Christ. AMEN! Amen to the New Covenant. Jesus Christ is my High Priest.

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

Isaiah 65:17 - For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

Luke 18:8 - I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

Will anyone be trusting Jesus, trusting in Jesus, believing and obeying Jesus, being found in the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is all about serving Christ, and having righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit:

Romans 14:17-22 - For **the kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for **peace and for mutual upbuilding**. *Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.* Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. **It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.** The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. **Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.** (ESV)

We must also love one another in the way Jesus has loved us. Jesus recognized that Father God loved Him, and Jesus obediently loved us. We must also recognise that we have been loved by God, and love one another:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

God's law is still used in judgement, but the one who has faith in Jesus is not condemned because they abide in Jesus, are Jesus' sheep, and are led by the Spirit, obeying and following Jesus' voice:

- Whoever is actively believing/trusting/obeying Jesus is not judged.
- Whoever is disbelieving/distrusting/disobeying Jesus is judged even now.

John 3:18 Interlinear: he who is believing in him is not judged, but he who is not believing hath been judged already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:18 - He who believes (G4100 pisteuo) in Him is not judged; he who does not believe (G4100 pisteuo) has been judged (G2919 krino) already (G2235 ede), because he has not believed (G4100 pisteuo) in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NASB)

Firstly, obedient children are children who hear the word of God, believe and love God, and we should be holy in all our conduct if we call on the LORD God who judges impartially according to each one's deeds:

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

I'm quite convinced that the substitutionary atonement is there to help us put a stop to sin, and live to righteousness and holiness:

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Revelation of John 3:1-5 - And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess (G3670 homologeó) his name before my Father and before his angels. (ESV)

If people including free-grace Christians do not repent from sin, they may still receive the wrath of God, but I'm not the judge here:

Colossians 3:5-10 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you **must** put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge **after the image of its creator.**

1 : 2919 krino kree'-no
2
3 properly, to distinguish, i.e. decide (mentally or judicially); by
4 implication, to try, condemn, punish:—avenge, conclude, condemn,
5 damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the) law,
6 ordain, call in question, sentence to, think.

1 : 2235 ede ay'-day
2
3 apparently from 2228 (or possibly 2229) and 1211; even now:—already,
4 (even) now (already), by this time.
5 see GREEK for 2228
6 see GREEK for 2229
7 see GREEK for 1211

God's still rewarding those who do good and bringing wrath to those who do evil:

Acts 10:4 - And he stared at him in terror and said, What is it, Lord? And he said to him, Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. (ESV)

Genesis 19:13 - For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it. (ESV)

Matthew 11:23 - And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. (ESV)

Do not be an enemy of the cross of Christ, submit to the righteousness of God - we needed Jehovah God, Father of Jesus Christ, to pay for our sin - and we must imitate Christ, passing forward Christ's love and forgiving as we have been forgiven, and repenting from sin:

John 3:19 - This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. (ESV)

I Peter 4:17 - For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (ESV)

Matthew 12:36-37 - I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

When one speaks evil against a brother, they become a judge of the law.

James 4:11 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. (ESV)

Repentance involves turning away from sin, and all believers are supposed to turn away from sin which they themselves condemn:

Romans 2:1-5 - Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (ESV)

Turn away from sin and be corrected by the Truth:

Daniel 9:13 - As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, **turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth.** (ESV)

We must stop doing evil and do what God wants of us, which is to have faith in Jesus, and do good, serving Christ:

Romans 2:6-11 - He will render to each one according to his works: **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;** but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for **every human being who does evil,** the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

Eternal judgement:

Hebrews 6:2 - and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

11.9.17 Our Lord is the Son of Man, and we should be ready and on alert

Matthew 24:42 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (ESV)

Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

Matthew 25:13 - Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (ESV)

Luke 21:34-36 - But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (ESV)

11.9.18 I believe I was saved and born-again by seeking Jesus and calling on the name of the Lord

Acts 2:17-21 - And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

I prayed a sinners prayer in my own room, and I had begun trying to repent from sin, but I was still stuck in it and I needed help.

And when we are born-again and given a new heart we should continue in obedience.

11.9.19 We should not rebel against the law - but we should obey the truth in truth

Matthew 23:2-7 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: How Preachers Grow Graceless

We should not live a double-life. We should not deny in our private life what we preach in public.

Serving Christ means doing the will of God **from the heart**, in truth, seeking to please God who sees everything even done in private:

Ephesians 6:5-8 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, **as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service**, as people-pleasers, **but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart**, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. (ESV)

I'm not a perfect person. I'm writing this document as I am learning, and interpreting as I go. And I am trying to clean myself up in my own private life.

12 Faith requires obedience

youtube.com: C S Lewis message 2024 - Faith in action God fights for you, but you must also act @time: 13 min 33 sec

The Breastplate of Righteousness (according to C. S. Lewis) Protects our hearts against the enemy's attacks. It is a reminder of the righteousness we have through Christ, not because of anything we have done. It is about **living in obedience and integrity, knowing that we are clothed in His righteousness**.

Luke writes that Peter says **the Holy Spirit** goes to those who obey Jesus.

If the book of Acts is finished after Paul went to Galatia, then it is in knowledge of the letter to the Galatians, where Paul says the promised Spirit is received through faith.

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

Or since Paul's journey to Galatia happened after Peter said **the Holy Spirit** is given to those who obey Jesus, and Paul writes that the promised Spirit is received through faith, even in these two passages, it's doubly confirmed that faith necessitates obedience.

Acts 16:6 - And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by **the Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia.

Jesus says you must obey God to be part of His family:

Luke 8:21 - But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

Jesus implies you must obey Him (Jesus) to be part of His family:

John 7:16 - So Jesus answered them, My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

Love Jesus (being obedient to Him) **and** believe that He came from God:

John 16:25-27- I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

Doing the will of God from the heart means obedience, and integrity and seeking to please God:

Ephesians 6:5-8 - Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, **as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service**, as people-pleasers, **but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart**, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. (ESV)

12.1 The obedient children are the ones who are not conformed to the passions of our former ignorance

I Peter 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

12.2 The sons of disobedience are the ones who are conformed to sexual immorality, impurity, or covetousness, etc.

Ephesians 5:5-7 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;

12.3 Get to know Jesus by following His commandments

Matthew 7:21-27 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (ESV)

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to **know him**, if we **keep his commandments**. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

You must obey Jesus:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

We must obey God. We have faith in God who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification, and having faith in God is having faith in His Son which is believing in and obeying Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:23-25 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

13 True religion

- Be a disciple and representative of Jesus
 - Obedient to Jesus
- Being a servant to other people
- Sticking up for truth
 - Be faithful to Jesus
 - * Be personally accountable to God and to Jesus
 - * Do not deny Jesus
- Have a pure heart
 - Obey God, being accountable to God
- Have Jesus' heart
- Serving Jesus
- Endeavour to please God
- Be holy
- Be godly (behaviour in accordance with the knowledge of God)

God does not despise the righteous deeds of His children done by faith:

Isaiah 64:5-6 - You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (ESV)

Given a good conscience with God by faith in Jesus, we then do good works in love out of a forgiven heart:

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

Quote from John Piper That misunderstanding of Isaiah 64:6 has caused many Christians to believe that it is impossible for a Christian to please God. If their best works are filthy rags, there's nothing they can do to please him - this is a profoundly unbiblical notion through and through.

Philippians 4:18 - I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:16 - Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (ESV)

Our works must be done in faith:

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Quote from John Piper Think what a horrible thing it would be to say that the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the Christian Life is filthy rags. I can hardly stand to think about it. They are not filthy rags.

Galatians 1:10 - For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. (ESV)

youtube.com: Unstained from the World: The Battle for Purity - Tim Conway @time: 57 min 19 sec
You have to do it. Those reflexive pronouns mean **your** responsibility. God doesn't do it for you. You do it. The person sitting next to you, your spouse doesn't do it for you, your friends don't do it. **You** need to be determined ,and deliberate and intentional, and this is a battle, and we are up against these great strongholds of thought that the world and the god of this world bombards us with. This is no easy thing.

James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (ESV)

Matthew 15:8-9 - This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. (ESV)

1 Samuel 16:7 - But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart. (ESV)

I do actually consider theology to be quite important but we should not be whitewashed tombs.
I think the person's lifestyle should be 'pure and undefiled religion' as James defines it.

1 Peter 3:16 - a conscience having good so that in this they might speak against you they shall be ashamed those reviling your - good in Christ manner of life (391. anastrophé) (Interlinear)

I should probably actually do my own Bible study though because there's a lot of false religion out there.
Rather than fill my mind with other people's doctrines and religion, we should obey God, knowing God knows.

Also endeavor to also do lots of service as that is what Jesus' Kingdom is all about.

14 Repentance from sin

Repentance leads to the knowledge of the truth, and ceasing to do the devil's will:

II Timothy 2:24-26 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them **repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.** (ESV)

We must cease to do the devil's will:

Hebrews 10:26-31 - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, Vengeance is mine; I will repay. And again, The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (ESV)

Before 2 April 2022 when I was born-again and a new creation, I was especially stuck in sin - all sorts of things: pornography, pride, like the prodigal son, but I was also quite oppressed. I hated feeling like I was in a stranglehold of lies where I wasn't able to act on anything I believed was true, and in poverty, and so I continued in sin. Some time in 2021, I had begun putting my trust in God to work, and trying to keep God's commandments. And on 2 April 2022, I was born-again of the Spirit. After that, things had become 'tangibly' spiritual and I was given 'knowledge' that God exists and I believed (and still do) that Jesus is God, so that means ever since then I then had a strong belief that Jesus is with me and Jesus granted me to keep on holding faith in Him without the full knowledge, which is really cool. So now I feel even more urgency with regards to repentance from sin and a desire to be holy. I'm a new creation, so I'm not going back to the way things were. Thank You Jesus.

I Thessalonians 5:20-21 - Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. (ESV)

14.1 Parable of the prodigal son - God's joy over a sinner that repents from sin

1 prodigal
2 Wasteful.
3
4 Spending money or using resources freely
5 and recklessly; wastefully extravagant.
6 "prodigal habits die hard"
7
8 A person who spends money in a recklessly
9 extravagant way.
10 "he hated rich prodigals who lived
11 useless, imprudent lives"

The story of the prodigal son is about a person coming to repentance, and there is great joy over it. It's not saying that following God's commandments are wrong. It's not even saying that 'rulekeeping' is wrong. It does say that sin leads to destruction. It also says that God and the angels are overjoyed when people repent from sin and turn back to Him, and that God forgives and welcomes us back when we do this.

Luke 15:7 - Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Luke 15:10 - Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:24 - For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to celebrate.

The father was always happy with the obedient son, but he was simply full of joy that his wayward son had returned:

Luke 15:31-32 - And he said to him, Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.

Yes, we must feel sorry for our sin:

Luke 18:13 - But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! (ESV)

We must turn from our wicked ways:

2 Chronicles 7:14 - if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (ESV)

Yes, we must turn from our wicked ways to obey God - absolutely!:

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Assuming you are following Jesus, then when we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. I've heard people say we only need to confess (G3670 homologeó) our sin, but we also need to be following Jesus / walking in the light. Repentance is still totally about changing our ways from wickedness to obedience:

I John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

God wants us to know Him and obey Him and to do good as He has commanded:

Hosea 6:5-8 - Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth *as the light.* For **I desire steadfast love** and not sacrifice, the **knowledge of God** rather than burnt offerings. But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me. Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with blood. (ESV)

15 Obtain a faith of equal standing with the Apostles by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

II Peter 1:1 - Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

We obtain a strong faith by the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
This requires obedience to Jesus.

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?**

Faith:

- Belief and Obedience => true knowledge => fruit
 - Belief and obedience leads to true knowledge, and after true knowledge, fruit

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

Also, the Old Testament speaks a lot about how to walk in righteousness:

II Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for **training in righteousness,**

This is why it's a good idea to study the Old Testament including Old Testament law, the nature of faith etc. and God's character, precepts and statutes, to love God and one's neighbour.

15.1 Knowing and being found in Christ Jesus is what it's all about

Suffering for righteousness sake (suffering for being Christlike).

Philippians 3:8-11 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of **his resurrection**, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (ESV)

Jesus' servants (people who obey Him) are found **in him**. Jesus' servants are those who have been washed, and they ought to then wash:

Psalms 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his **servants**; none of those who take refuge **in him** will be condemned. (ESV)

It involves:

- believing the truth
 - sanctification while believing the truth
 - putting a stop to sin
 - becoming holy
 - being a slave to righteousness, obeying Jesus
- * being obedient to Jesus, instead of being obedient to the world

– **I Peter 1:16-22** - since it is written, **You shall be holy, for I am holy.** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that **you were ransomed from the futile ways** inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but **with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.** He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. **Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth** for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

- loving selflessly as Jesus loved

Also, through perfect obedience, Jesus has spoken Father God's commandment of eternal life, which is what He has said:

- "the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak."

God sent Jesus:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

I Peter 3:17 - For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (ESV)

Obeying God's will often leads to suffering by the hands of those who are in darkness:

I Peter 4:19 - Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

15.2 There is no salvation without repentance - we must turn away from sin

3340. metanoeó Corresponding Greek / Hebrew Entries: The Hebrew equivalent often associated with repentance is " שׁוּב (shuv, Strong's H7725), which means to turn back or return, emphasizing a return to God and His ways.

Usage: The term "metanoeó" is primarily used in the New Testament to denote a profound change of mind and heart, often associated with turning away from sin and turning towards God. It involves a recognition of wrongdoing, a sincere regret or remorse, and a commitment to change one's behavior and align with God's will. This concept is central to the Christian message of salvation and is often linked with faith and conversion.

We need to heed Jesus' warning that we need to change our minds or perish. We have to stop believing falsehood and believe the truth, believe/trust Jesus and Jesus' words:

Luke 13:3 - No, I tell you; but unless you repent (3340. metanoeó), you will all likewise perish. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

Matthew 9:13 - Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. (ESV)

Acts 20:20-21 - how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

James exhorts us to turn away from sin and to become single-minded about the Word of God, trusting the Word of God (trusting God's testimony of Jesus, believing the Scripture. Trusting Jesus' Words). Drawing near to God seems to involve turning away from sin, and trusting God's Word:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Jesus is our Lord and Master, not sin. Being under grace means we have been forgiven and now present ourselves as slaves of Righteousness, obeying Jesus:

Romans 6:9-14 - Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (KJV)

We should be obedient slaves of Righteousness (slaves of Jesus). If you're not enslaved to Christ you're enslaved to something else - either yourself or to sin or to the world or to satan. I realise that word 'enslaved' carries connotations of slavery but it's slavery to Jesus, and freedom from slavery to sin, slavery from walking in disobedience to God, to instead serve God through Jesus. No servant is greater than their master, but at least the servant of Jesus has Jesus as their master.

If we continue on serving, trusting, obeying sin, we will die. But if we continue serving, trusting, obeying Jesus we will be sanctified and have eternal life: Faith is commanded so is inseparable from obedience. It's the real gospel, the one that calls people to obedience by word and deed, obedience to Jesus. Obedience which leads to righteousness. Faith is commanded of us:

Romans 6:15-23 - What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The **end of those things is death**. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

15.3 We must believe the truth, forsake sin, and live to righteousness

Jesus didn't sin. We need to have the same way of thinking as Jesus had. We need to attempt to cease from sin, and live for the will of God.

1 Peter 4:1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we should always give thanks (G2168 eucharisteo) to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning (G746 arche) for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit **and** faith (G4102 pistis) in the truth (G225 aletheia). (NASB)

Jesus has enabled us to die to sin and live to righteousness:

1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

Matthew 25:46 - And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (ESV)

Cleaned up by having faith in the truth.

See how faithfulness is related to faith - faith is faithful to God. Having faith in God **is** keeping accountability with God with regard to His commands and promises and maintaining faithfulness with God who sees in secret:

II Timothy 2:13 - if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Faith in the truth - strong faith word! Belief and ongoing faithfulness, trust, reliance.

1 : 4102 *pistis* pis'-tis
2
3 from 3982; persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious
4 truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially
5 reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such
6 profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth
7 itself:—assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.
8 see GREEK for 3982

II Thessalonians 2:11-14 - Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through **sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth**. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We want to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ - we do this by being Christlike through obeying Jesus Christ, which brings glory to Jesus and glory to God. We obey when we believe and are being sanctified.

Ephesians 6:14 - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

We **must** have faith in Jesus for the righteousness of God that comes by faith. We must believe what He's achieved, and we must be born-again of the Spirit.

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (G4100 **pisteuo** has faith in Jesus).

Saved, and being saved. Being cleaned while believing.
Jesus is our High Priest.

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Jesus condemned sin in the flesh. Now we walk according to the spirit so that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us.

It's still really important to put a stop to sin! And we must walk according to Jesus' commandments:

John 14:24 - Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

15.3.1 Holiness

I have so far found this series by R. C. Sproul to help clarify the meaning of the word 'holiness':

Playlist youtube.com: The Holiness of God - R.C. Sproul

I will defer to the following video by R. C. Sproul:

Watch youtube.com: The Meaning of Holiness: The Holiness of God with R.C. Sproul

15.3.2 Personal 'holiness' / 'righteousness' (i.e. devotion to Christ)

Quote by R C Sproul "What makes something sacred, what makes something holy is the touch of God upon it. When the one who himself is other and different touches that which is ordinary, it becomes extraordinary."

Undivided devotion to Christ:

I Corinthians 7:32-35 - I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to **secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.** (ESV)

Sincere and *pure* devotion to Christ:

II Corinthians 11:2-3 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a **sincere and pure devotion to Christ.** (ESV)

When we repent from sin, and serve Jesus with undivided, sincere and pure devotion, we allow Jesus' holiness to shine through us increasingly.

Therefore, it's really not our own holiness or power that is responsible for miracles that happen through us or in cooperation with us, but it is Jesus' power and holiness.

Jesus is the True Vine. We are the branches. AMEN!! We can do nothing apart from Him. AMEN!!

Acts 3:12 - And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? (KJV)

Everyone who names the name of the Lord must depart from iniquity:

I Corinthians 6:17-20 - But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the **Holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

II Timothy 2:19-22 - But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: The Lord knows those who are his, and, Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity. Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Our bodies are a vessel for Jesus' holiness to shine out of. It's the vessel of **the Holy Spirit**:

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own (G1438 heautou) vessel (G4632 skeuos) in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; (NASB)

We should not deceive our brothers by lying about the matter of sanctifying our bodies:

I Thessalonians 4:6-7 - and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. (NASB)

Jesus is the light in us, and we must let our light shine:

Luke 8:14-16 - And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. , No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. (ESV)

Matthew 5:15 - Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. (ESV)

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.

The power comes from Jesus:

Luke 8:46 - But Jesus said, Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.

When we repent and clean ourselves up, we allow Jesus' light to shine through us. The sanctification process is like cleaning a muddy window.

Luke 6:40 - A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Luke 6:41-42 - Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye, when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Luke 6:43 - For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,

We are the temple of God:

I Corinthians 3:17 - If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (ESV)

Philippians 2:15-16 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

15.3.3 We approach Christ's very image

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Hebrews 2:11-12 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise. (ESV)

15.3.4 Repentance: Put off the old self

Colossians 3:4-9 - When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

- Stop sexual immorality.
- Stop idolatry.
- Stop gossip and slander.
- Stop being hateful of people.

I Corinthians 10:7-14 - Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

15.3.5 Put on the new self: Christ-likeness

Colossians 3:10-17 - and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love (**26. agapé**), which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

youtube.com: Should Christians Play Games That Involve Lying? - Ask Pastor Tim Brethren, I don't know about you but when I was lost I was a big liar, a *big* liar and one of the things that I [did], just being saved, is going back and actually opening up with people about some of the big lies that I told and had a lot of impact or effect that I just felt God brought to my mind and if anything, I mean we should really be striving to be people that tell the truth.

Now I recognize sometimes we're going to say things and we don't remember exactly the right way, and we unintentionally say things, but that's entirely different than you **honing** your skills to deceive. Biblically speaking, that is a devilish thing. Yeah, I don't think you can get away from it. He (the devil) is a liar, he's the father of Lies. God [has] no lie in Him. Jesus - you cannot find [any deception in Him]. Well, there were times he was silent, there were times he didn't want it to be known who he was, but you cannot charge him with deception at all.

Yeah, I really don't like the game Coup which seems to be training people to deceive each other - training people to think in that way. That's the big problem I think, that it trains people to think in that way, to lie to gain advantage over someone else. But it's not at all a healthy way of thinking. Wow, a scripture to back this up.

Jeremiah 9:5 - Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity. (ESV)

15.3.6 What must be believe, and what we must do: Walk in *truth* and *love* the way Jesus has commanded us

We must receive Jesus' words through faith, walk in them through faith and come to **know in truth** (we must truly know) that Jesus came from God, and continue in faith, continuing to be sanctified.

We must practice the truth:

John 3:21 - But he who **practices the truth** comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are **being sanctified**.

This is what we must come to know in truth - that Jesus came from Father God, and that Father God sent Him - it is Father God's will:

John 17:8 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have **come to know in truth that I came from you; and** they have believed that you sent me.

15.3.7 Come to the knowledge of the truth

I Timothy 2:3-6 - This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to **come to the knowledge of the truth**. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

Therefore, we should receive Jesus' words and obey Jesus and arrive at the truth. Obedience is an essential part of faith. Like Abraham obeying God, or like Israel crossing through the Red Sea, it's obedience which leads to sure belief, and obedience that leads a person into sure knowledge of the truth, and obedience which cooperates with sanctification by the Spirit.

Exodus 14:31 - When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed (H539 'aman) in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you free." (NASB)

The true knowledge of Jesus grants us everything pertaining to life and godliness, allowing us to partake in the divine nature:

II Peter 1:3-4 - seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the true knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that **by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.** (NASB)

God wants us to know Him and obey Him and to do good as He has commanded:

Hosea 6:5-8 - Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth *as the light*. For **I desire steadfast love** and not sacrifice, the **knowledge of God** rather than burnt offerings. But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me. Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with blood. (ESV)

Being set free through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is at least in part being set free from the defilements of the world. We are redeemed, saved from the sinful generation, set free and forgiven, saved by Jesus, to go on obeying God:

II Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known **the way of righteousness** than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Then we continue to add Work/Love/Walking-By-Faith/Virtue to be fruitful:

But we must practice Jesus' commandments even before we have arrived at the knowledge of the truth, in order to arrive at the knowledge of the truth:

II Peter 1:8 - For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge (G1922 *epignosis*) of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I John 2:3 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

We come to know Him through obeying Him. He is the Truth. God sent Him. The point at which we have come to know Him is if we are managing to actually **keep** His commandments.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

Jesus is the living Word. He obeyed God perfectly, and fulfilled the Law, Prophets and Psalms.

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting. (ESV)

John 17:17-19 - **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)

Jesus is eternally our Great High Priest. I believe this says Father God has sworn and will not change His mind.

Psalms 110:4 - The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 4:14 - Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

In Hebrews, we are also instructed to "not waver" in our confession. So what we are agreeing with and continuing to agree with certainly does matter. We should keep confessing what we are hoping for and hold fast to that confession and not waver. God is faithful and His promises are trustworthy and we should agree with and be corrected by and keep agreeing with God:

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

And the obedience doesn't end. We continue to be sanctified, as slaves of righteousness, abiding by the teaching of Christ:

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,** and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We must continue abiding in Christ, abiding in His love:

John 15:1-14 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

And the obedience doesn't end. We continue to be sanctified through faith. We are saved from darkness, believing the word of God, and in obedience we are saved from sinning and try to fulfill the Royal Law, and even using our freedom in Christ to do good works that are pleasing to God:

II Peter 1:1-11 - Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so

that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to **supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was **cleansed from his former sins**. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

II Thessalonians 2:11-14 - Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through **sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth**. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Continuing to be sanctified by faith is a process where a person continues in Jesus' words because they are sanctified by faith in Jesus and that means ongoing trust and faithful obedience.

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.** (ESV)

To be sanctified by faith in Jesus is an applied process, I think:

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are **sanctified by faith in me.** (ESV)

In similar fashion to Jesus continually obeying Father God as he endured suffering, I think we should learn to submit and follow Jesus' commandments

Hebrews 5:7-10 - In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

15.3.8 Identity in Christ

- I am a child of God, a born-again son of the Most-High God.
 - **Galatians 3:26-29** - for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)
- I have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, God's Only-Begotten Son, redeemed out of the hand of the enemy and called to be seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus.
 - **I Peter 1:19** - but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

- **Psalms 107:2-3** - Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. (ESV)
 - **Ephesians 2:6** - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (ESV)
 - **Psalms 106:10** - So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy. (ESV)
- I have been born-again, not with corruptible seed, but with the incorruptible seed of the word of God and the washing of regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
 - **I Peter 1:23-25** - since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
 - **Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (ESV)
- The same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in me and greater is He that is in my than he that is in the world.
 - **Romans 8:11** - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (ESV)
- I am more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus who loved me and gave His life for me, and how much more all things also will God graciously give me having delivered His Son up for us all.
 - **Romans 8:37** - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (ESV)
 - **Matthew 7:11** - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (ESV)
 - **Romans 8:32** - He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (ESV)
- I have a new heart, and my desires are for the things of God
 - **Ezekiel 36:26** - And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (ESV)
- I love the word of God; I love the Holy Spirit
 - **Psalms 119:97** - Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. (ESV)
 - I like meditating on Jesus' name and the truths in this song:

* youtube.com: Rend Collective - YOUR NAME IS POWER {Official Video}

- **Romans 5:5** - and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (ESV)

- **I John 4:10** - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)
 - **I John 5:3** - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)
- I love prayer and the disciplines of God that make a vessel of honour for the Lord Jesus and for His mighty good works.
 - **Romans 12:1** - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (ESV)
 - **I Peter 3:15-17** - but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (ESV)
 - **Luke 9:26** - For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (ESV)
 - **Acts 3:12** - And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? (ESV)
- I have been joined to the Lord and I am one spirit with Him.
 - **I Corinthians 6:17** - But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. (ESV)
- I am able to fast. I am able to put down my idols. I am able to make time for God
 - **Daniel 10:3** - I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. (ESV)
 - **Daniel 1:8** - But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. (ESV)
 - **Matthew 6:16-18** - And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)
 - **I Samuel 7:6** - So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. (ESV)
 - <https://www.ligonier.org/guides/fasting>
 - **Luke 10:38-42** - Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me. But the Lord answered her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her. (ESV)
 - **Ecclesiastes 3:11** - He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (ESV)

- He has anointed me with the Holy Spirit and with power, and I go around doing good and healing [all] that are oppressed of the devil, and surely no weapon formed against me shall prosper as I walk in obedience to His word and will.
 - **Titus 2:14** - who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)
- I am complete/made complete in Christ and if God is for me who can be against me?
 - **Colossians 2:9-10** - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. (ESV)
 - **Colossians 2:9-10** - For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; (NASB)
 - **Romans 8:31** - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (ESV)
- God leads me in triumph in everything through Christ Jesus my Lord, God and Saviour.
 - **II Corinthians 2:14** - But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. (ESV)
- The favour of God opens doors of prosperity and promise ahead of me and the blessings of God chase me down as I serve Him in obedience.
 - **Job 36:11** - If they listen and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness. (ESV)
 - **Psalms 34:22** - The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. (ESV)
- I am anointed to preach the gospel of good news, how God has made a way through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and His blood, to deliver me from destruction and the power of sin and my sinful nature and has translated me into the kingdom of God and His love where He has loved me first and bought me so that I can now serve Him, obey Him and be zealous for good works
 - **Mark 16:15** - And he said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (ESV)
 - **Matthew 28:20** - teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)
 - We are to preach the gospel and not just live out the gospel
 - * **Romans 10:14-17** - But how are they to **call on him** in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How **beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us? So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (ESV)
- I choose to worship Him in spirit and in truth, and I will continually offer up the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving as I recognise Jesus Christ as my Lord, God and Saviour

- **John 4:23-24** - But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (ESV)
- **Mark 7:6-9** - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.** And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (ESV)
- **Psalms 59:17** - O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love. (ESV)
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!
 - **Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (ESV)
- AMEN!!

15.3.9 Become what we are by identity - put to death the old leaven

After being born-again and placed into Christ, we must put to death the old leaven. We consider ourselves dead to sin and alive from the dead.

We continue trusting, believing Jesus Christ and we will never die.

A believer in Jesus Christ though he dies, he shall live:

- Whoever believes in Jesus Christ, though he die, yet shall he live.

Everyone who lives and believes in Jesus Christ shall never die.

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? (ESV)

I believe that after being born-again of the spirit, I had (with very little knowledge of Jesus' commandments) had to learn Jesus' commandments and apply them, and I believe **the Holy Spirit** taught me to obey Jesus as I read Jesus' sayings and was subsequently tested on those sayings. For example, if I read that we must give to all who ask, and then the Lord sets up a situation where someone asks for money, then I have a choice to obey Jesus, which means resisting those who try to deter me from obeying Jesus. Upon being tested, someone would offer worldly wisdom in an attempt to deter me from following Jesus, and as I obey God I am led by **the Holy Spirit**, and taught by **the Holy Spirit**. And this is an ongoing process. I say this for others' sake to explain how I have come to know how faith in Jesus, following Jesus, works practically, that it is more than mere intellectual belief to be led by the Spirit, but it is also obedience, and a process of sanctification, and walking in the light which involves walking in love characteristic of Christ's love.

Galatians 6:14-17 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Be Who You Are: Living Out Identity in Christ, Part 1

Those who have been united with Christ really are in reality an 'unleavened' lump, and we attack the old leaven to get it out. We have been made new with union in Christ, and then we must then become in experience what we are in reality. The old leaven lingers, so we attack the remaining leaven:

I Corinthians 5:6-7 - Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (ESV)

We must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God:

Romans 6:2,11 - By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Because we have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God we should put to death what is earthly in us. We are really unleavened so we should cleanse out the old leaven:

Colossians 3:3-5 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Narrow Road is Lonely....No One Tells You This @time: 10 min 53 sec Jesus is the example for us to follow and become more like Him. And as we follow Him, we get cleaner, we get purer, our minds are renewed, the impurities start to wash away. He starts to prune us. Our hearts start to soften. We start to align more with His will for us, with his desires for us. We start learning who our identity is, when the enemy our whole lives has been trying to steal the true knowledge of who we are. He never wants us to find out who we are in Christ. [The enemy] wants us to give us identity in this world. That's why we place our identity so much on the things that we have, on the political leaders we follow, on the clothes we wear, on the music artists we listen to. [The enemy] wants us to identify with the things of this world because it'll keep us further away from our true identity in Christ, and so he convinces us that it's our own idea, that this identity that we've created and manufactured for ourselves was our idea, it's our desire, it's exactly what we want - I identify as this, I identify as that, we have flags for everything.

II John 1:1-11 highlights:

- knowing the truth
- the truth abiding in us
- walking in the truth
 - we are commanded to do so
- love one another and loving one another is walking according to Jesus' commandments commands
 - we are commanded to do so
- lose not what we have worked for, but may win a full reward
- to not abide in this teaching is to work wickedness

II John 1:1-11 - The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who **know the truth**, because of the **truth that abides in us and will be with us forever**: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in **truth and love**. I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children **walking in the truth**, just as we were **commanded by the Father**. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we **love one another**. And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in

the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his **wicked works**. (ESV)

Paul has taught the Ephesians to follow the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. He said we **must** help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

Acts 20:35 - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we **must** help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.** (ESV)

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Definitely stop obeying sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth:

Hebrews 10:26-29 - For if we go on sinning deliberately **after receiving the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? (ESV)

Don't live in fear over the warning in **Hebrews 10:26-29**, just continue confessing sin and continue being sanctified:

I Corinthians 13:12 - For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. (ESV)

Continue to be sanctified by faith in Jesus:

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are **sanctified by faith in me.** (ESV)

Continue to confess (G3670 homologeó) sin:

I John 1:9 - If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

To **know** if Jesus' teaching comes from God, one must desire to do God's will.

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

Therefore, to arrive at the knowledge of the truth, you've got to have an obedient heart.

15.3.10 We must resist the devil

youtube.com: Resist the Devil - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 58 min 47 sec The root of the issue is he's he's a deceiver of the whole world and we want to we want to hit it with truth, it's a matter of Truth, and it's the church alone that can do it. Brethren, there's no one else out there. The great task of life, the great business of life is to keep standing when it comes to this. Gird your loins with truth, take up that sword. Brethren, have a faith that is grounded in the truth. Have the gospel on your feet that comes from the Scriptures. It's a great thing to be able to stand in a world like ours against an enemy like ours, but this is the trumpet call to arms. You've got to wrestle against these cosmic powers, to arms to battle. The enemy isn't just coming, brethren, he's already here. He's upon us, he's arrived, he's infiltrated the church already, he's among us. "Be strong in the Lord in the strength of his might," the Apostle said. Are you ready? You got to keep on the alert, you got to watch, you got to rise up, you got to shake yourself, you got to stand up, do everything to stand. While you and I are alive in this world, the devil is going to be there. He's going to be there with all all of his evil scheming, malignity, trying to bring us down. He'll fight us to the end, brethren. He will fight he'll fight us to our deathbed. **Is this hopeless? Just the opposite, brethren, it's just the reverse. It's glorious.** We are given the privilege to crush his head. We're given the privilege of being the one to follow in our Lord's very footsteps and resist him and bring the gospel to this world. That's it. We are to be the champions of the truth. Brethren, we are in the enemy's territory. He has been thrown down to the earth and the sea and that's where we are. Formidable foe. He who's with us is greater than he that's in the world. Brethren, that's our hope, the Lord is with us. **He gives us everything we need and the power to use it. You cannot relax. Christ will make you more than a conqueror, but I'll tell you this it's your battle. The battle belongs to the Lord but you've got to fight, and that's what Scripture says.** You've got to resist, you've got to wrestle, you've got to be the one. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. God help us. Father, we pray that you would help us. Help us be more than conquerors, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

16 Sanctification

16.1 Allow myself to be corrected

Psalm 141:5 - Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it. Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds. (ESV)

We are being prepared to be presented to Jesus:

Colossians 1:21-22 - And you, who once were alienated and **hostile in mind, doing evil deeds**, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, (ESV)

- Read : [davidkitz.blog: The Need for Correction | I love the Psalms](#)

16.1.1 The Holy Spirit will teach you

Word of encouragedment youtube.com: Wilderness How To Come Out / New Wineskin New Season #2024

youtube.com: The Holy Spirit Will Teach You Everything - Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon {@BishopE}

Karl Barth, the great Protestant theologian from the last century, said, "The claim that God has spoken implies the trinity." And what he meant was if you say God has spoken, which is a basic biblical intuition, that means there must be in God a speaker, we call him the father, there must be a word spoken. We call

that the son. And Bart says there must be an interpreter of the word. Why? Because the divine word, that's too much for our little minds to handle. So we need not a human interpreter. He's not going to help us with that. We need a divine interpreter of the divine word.

16.2 Be corrected by the truth

John 17:17-19 - Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)

As we are have faith in Jesus, even obeying Him to go out into the world, we are also sanctified by the Truth, as Jesus has consecrated Himself.

We are healed, corrected, sanctified by God's word.

I believe that becoming the righteousness of God is initially **instantaneous** when we believe but going forward it also is **cooperative** as we live, submitting to the righteousness of God (Jesus' righteousness) and then being found in Jesus, letting Jesus wash us, and work in us, transform us, and that a childlike trust in Jesus (a believing and obedient trust), following Jesus, walking in faith, and behaving as one of God's children, following Jesus our Lord and Saviour is how we receive and walk into the kingdom which is given to us and that walking in a childlike faith in Jesus is how we have the righteousness that is by faith.

An adequate reading of the following which makes sense to me is that being found in Jesus, we have a righteousness which does indeed belong to us but it belongs also to Jesus who we are found in. The righteousness which we have in Jesus doesn't come from the law but through faith in Jesus, depending on faith in Jesus. In other words, the righteousness is not our own apart from Jesus, but the righteousness still belongs to us if it is the righteousness of faith in Jesus, us being found in Jesus. Our righteousness being found in Jesus doesn't make it self-righteousness to obey God's commandments:

Philippians 3:9 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— (ESV)

I believe we have righteousness because we are found **in** Him, and He is our High Priest and or Lord and King, and Saviour. Living by faith is a lifestyle to be found in Jesus and that's how we have righteousness from Him, because we are found **in** Him and are being perfected and sanctified (in genuine agape love and holiness) like a branch getting healthier because it's connected to Jesus. It does not mean we are able to displace Him as the head of the body because we don't have righteousness apart from Him (as far as I understand):

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him**, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

The Holy Spirit goes to those who obey God, and causes the person to walk in God's precepts - stopping lying, stealing, coveting, idolizing, cheating, etc.

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

16.3 Repent of evil deeds, feelings and thoughts

Ephesians 4:30-32 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

16.4 Renew our minds

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

Believe in the power of God's Word, allow myself to be corrected, and sanctified by the washing of the Word. Actually read the Scriptures to see what God finds acceptable:

Ephesians 5:26 - that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (ESV)

We are being prepared to be presented to Jesus:

I Peter 1:13 - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Devotional star.net.nz: -gods-word-renews-20240704

16.5 Be qualified regarding the faith - renewed in mind, not opposing the truth

II Timothy 3:8 - Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. (ESV)

Colossians 2:18 - Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, (ESV)

I Timothy 6:5 - and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. (ESV)

I Timothy 3:2 - Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (ESV)

16.5.1 Set our mind on heavenly things, not earthly things

Colossians 3:2 - Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (ESV)

Philippians 3:19 - Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:1-2 - Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. (ESV)

16.6 Put a stop to sin and practice personal righteousness

Which commandments must we keep? Jesus' commandments - Jesus' sayings and commandments which Father God commanded Him to speak. Also, it's worth learning from the Apostles who were with Jesus. Some commandments of Jesus are divulged and better understood from their writings.

Jesus kept Father God's commandments including the commandment of what to say and speak to us. Jesus' words and sayings and commandments which God gave Him to speak to us are what we should keep. His commandments are eternal life for us:

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

From infants in Christ to maturity, people who keep Jesus' commandments are found in Christ who is in God:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:1-5 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Because God loved us *first*:

- The Apostle Paul endeavours to know Jesus ('makes it his own'. See **Php 3:9-13**) *because Jesus made Paul His own*

– To be found in Jesus **is** what Paul describes as the righteousness from God that depends on faith

* **Philippians 3:8-12** - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

- * **I Thessalonians 5:8** - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)
- * **I John 3:23-24** - And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)
- * **Ephesians 6:14** - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, (ESV)
- * **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce **the righteousness that God requires**. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)
- We know Jesus by believing in Him and obeying His commandments, and when we love and forgive we know *God loved us and forgave us first*
- * **I John 2:3-6** - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
- We must love because *He loved us first* for God to abide in us
 - **Romans 5:7-8** - For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)
 - **I John 4:9-12** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)
- We must forgive as we have been forgiven
 - **Colossians 3:12-14** - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)
- We must be conformed to holiness
 - **I Peter 1:14-16** - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. (ESV)

Practicing righteousness is an indicator that someone is born of God:

I John 3:7 - Little children, **let no one deceive you.** Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

I John 2:29 - If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

I Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

We must honour God with our bodies:

Romans 6:13 - Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

We must be born of God, die to sin and practice righteousness.

Then while practicing righteousness after dying to sin, we may suffer for practicing righteousness. Therefore this righteousness is a personal righteousness, which we practice after dying to sin.

I Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

Faith working through love is obeying Jesus.

Galatians 5:5-6 - For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Paul awaits Christ to be formed in the person:

Galatians 4:18-19 - It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

We want Christ to dwell in our hearts through faith:

Ephesians 3:14-19 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith** — that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (ESV)

16.6.1 Did Jesus pay the price for all our sins? (poll)

That's a very loaded question. It depends on how God's grace is received.

Jesus died for our sins so we can be healed, so that we can practice righteousness / walk in the light / walk in love / walk in the truth, and be conformed into His image, and there is a point at which a person would arrive at Christian perfection, conformed to the image of Christ, so long as they continue abiding in Jesus, because we are saved through sanctification while holding faith in Jesus.

Jesus was made sin, Jesus who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God, and in Him be able to enter the kingdom of God, abiding in His commandments, abiding in His love.

Empowered by Jesus in us to stop practicing sin, we may **inherit** the kingdom (sanctified, cleaned up and holy, and able to inherit the kingdom).

But what if a person who has come to know Jesus, practicing His commandments, received the testimony of Jesus from the Holy Spirit in the heart, seen and entered the kingdom, then turns back to sin, or rejects Jesus, or doesn't continue on abiding in Jesus' teachings?

There is a point in our journey where we receive knowledge of the truth, where we really need to have put a stop to deliberate sin. We need to not be bearing grudges. We need to love our family in Christ.

John 8:34-36 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

If a person hates their brother they don't have eternal life:

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

I John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:24-29 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? (ESV)

For example, to hold on to unforgivenses while we are keeping faith in Jesus, this would be defiling:

Hebrews 12:15 - See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Abding in Jesus' sound teachings, we know that if we continue to sin like Jesus describes here, this defiles a person. So if after being regenerated, receiving the grace of God, a person continues in willful, deliberate sin, this would still defile a person:

Matthew 15:18-21 - But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone. And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. (ESV)

So how do we become the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ? I think of it like this:

The Apostles were working with Christ. I believe the Apostles also here are exhorting believers to work with Christ to receive the grace of God. The Apostles also practiced what they preached. OK, so imagine a situation where someone is just being so irrationally abusive, or so irrationally hateful and unloving towards people. It might be worth picturing that person as Jesus and Jesus putting Himself in that situation so that you can carry out His commandments and demonstrate God's love towards them. It might also be worth picturing that person as someone who God has set before you to love them and so pass forward the love of God, and perhaps lead them to Jesus. God **bought** that opportunity for you to love them, and He also trust you with it, as you trust His commandments. He puts us in the position of being able to demonstrate the love of God, and He entrusts you with it, to show that person the love of God, for their sake, and for Jesus' sake, and for your sake.

That's the freedom which Jesus bought for us. Imagine you want to be able to live-out Jesus' commandments and you feel like they're just so challenging or daunting, or impossible. Fulfilling Christ's law is not impossible. All things are possible with God. And to fulfill the law of Christ is what Paul challenged us to do.

Well, Jesus bought for us the ability to live out His commandments, and live out Father God's commandments to us authentically and without fear of punishment. And when we arrive at being given rest from Jesus, which He gives us, then keeping His commandments has become unburdensome, and though we might sin sometimes, we repent, and it is not deliberate sin. God brings us to the point when we're continue on in His commandments, and we try our best, we might intend to do the right thing but our plans might not always work out as we had intended, but we're not sinning deliberately.

Yes, we make mistakes, but God just continues working with us and in us, and Jesus teaches us to obey His commandments better, and live in this way. And since the Holy Spirit goes to those who obey Jesus, it's as if Jesus helps us to do it. So He gives us His commandments, and we put our faith in Him and obey Him and He helps us to continue doing them:

I Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:11 - Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. (ESV)

Through the power of God working in us as we hold faith in Jesus we may enter the Kingdom of God:

Mathetes to Diognetus This was not that He at all delighted in our sins, but that He simply endured them; nor that He approved the time of working iniquity which then was, but that He sought to form a mind conscious of righteousness, so that being convinced in that time of our unworthiness of attaining life through our own works, it should now, through the kindness of God, be vouchsafed to us; and having made it manifest that in ourselves we were unable to enter into the kingdom of God, we might through the power of God be made able.

God makes a person born-again of the Spirit, and they receive power, and this power should be used to empower you to enter into the Kingdom of God, to enter into God's rest through faith and obedience to Christ, to enter into peace, joy and righteousness in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

As born-again Christians, we should be obeying Jesus, being sanctified by the truth for a sincere love of our family in Christ, and this should be purifying for us:

I Peter 4:7-8 - The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)

I John 1:9 - If we confess (**G3670 homologeó**) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)

We must agree with God over what is sinful.

G3670 homologeó Homologēō ("confess") means to speak the same thing, i.e. "assent, agree with, confess, declare, admit" (Vine, Unger, White, NT, 120).

And we should confess to one another when we have done wrong:

James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (ESV)

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (ESV)

James 5:19-20 - My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (ESV)

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

But after we are born-again and baptised with the Holy Spirit, the devil comes along, like he did to Jesus when Jesus went into the wilderness after Jesus was baptised, and the devil tries to deter a person from continuing to walk in faith and obedience to Christ, and so we must quickly become familiar with the Scripture, especially Jesus' commandments and sayings. And use the Scripture to combat the lies of the enemy, and to continue walking in faith and obedience to Jesus:

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

OK, but what happens if instead of continuing on, abiding in Jesus' teachings, we pervert the grace of God (which is meant to be used to help sanctify us and to help us to inherit the kingdom of God) into sensuality / idolatry / sin? Worse things. Doubling down on sin after receiving the grace of God which was meant to help you forsake sinful practices, I think produces a state worse than before.

There is the redemption of our spirit, and then the redemption of our bodies. Our spirit is regenerated and then with a regenerated spirit, and with spiritual gifts, etc., and spiritual power which we didn't have when we were not regenerated. With a born-again, regenerated spirit and Jesus having paid out debt of sin, we are supposed to be sanctified in love and holiness. Our hearts are sanctified by faith and our souls are sanctified by obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brethren.

Jesus paid the price for our sanctification.

Sanctification is a process that happens by faith and obedience to Jesus Christ:

I Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:26 - that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Sanctification is the salvation: We are sanctified while having faith in the Truth. This sanctification is the salvation. We are saved through sanctification and faith. This sanctification is sanctification of the heart and soul:

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

If instead we pervert this grace to enable and empower sin and you consolidate towards that instead of trusting and obeying Jesus, then that's like walking from Egypt to Sodom, rather than from Egypt to the Promised land.

So if a person gets baptised in the Holy Spirit and then resists the purifying work of the Holy Spirit, defiling themselves by disobedience, doubling down on sin, indulging in sin, then that leaves a person in a state that is worse than before.

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

II Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. (ESV)

Jude 1:4-5 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. (ESV)

Mark 14:21 - For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born. (ESV)

An invulnerable worm moving through a person's soul (for all eternity) because of willful disobedience after receiving the knowledge of the truth? If that is what this is?

Mark 9:47-50 - And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. (ESV)

16.7 Sanctification by the Spirit and faith / obedience

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we should always give thanks (G2168 eucharisteo) to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning (G746 arche) for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith (G4102 pistis) in the truth (G225 aletheia). (NASB)

Faith in the truth - pistis is a strong faith word!

II Thessalonians 2:11-15 - Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through **sanctification by the Spirit** and **belief in the truth**. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:10 - And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (ESV)

1 Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain (568. apechó) from sexual immorality; (ESV)

1 apechó: to hold back, keep off, to be away, be distant

2 Original Word:

3 Part of Speech: Verb

4 Transliteration: apechó

5 Phonetic Spelling: (ap-ekh'-o)

6 Definition: to hold back, keep off, to be away, be distant

7 Usage: I have in full, am far, it is enough.

God hates evil and wants to clean us from it. In fact, God hates evildoers, God hates the wicked, but has shown His love for the wicked by sending Christ to die for them, so that they can be saved from their sin:

Psalms 11:5 - The LORD tests the righteous, but **his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence**. (ESV)

Romans 5:6-8 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)

Hebrews 1:9 - You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions. (ESV)

So if we fear God then we also want to turn away from evil and do what is pleasing to God:

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (ESV)

It's really important to purify ourselves of every defilement of body and spirit. Paul the Apostle quotes the Old Testament on this:

II Corinthians 6:14-18 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.** (ESV)

Isaiah 52:11 - Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, you who bear the vessels of the LORD. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

I want to be sanctified completely:

I Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

There is no lust in the divine nature:

II Peter 1:4 - by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. (ESV)

I want to bring glory to God by being a living sacrifice - living in a holy manner pleasing to God:

Romans 12:1 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:20 - for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

We must keep and accept the precepts of God over the precepts of men:

Mark 7:6-9 - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.** And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (ESV)

This passage is condemning submitting to **worldly / human** precepts and imploring us to submit to God's precepts. It's not condemning God's precepts but imploring us to put to death what is against God's precepts:

Colossians 2:20-23,3:1-6 - If with Christ you **died to the elemental spirits of the world**, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to **human precepts** and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you have been **raised with Christ, seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** (ESV)

1 Thessalonians 5:23 :: Himself now the God - of peace may sanctify you completely and entirely your - spirit (pneuma) and - soul (psyche) and - body (soma blameless at the coming of the Lord of us Jesus Christ may be preserved (Interlinear)

I Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

16.8 God is the source of our life in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the source of our wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord. (ESV)

16.8.1 We only boast in Christ Jesus, since He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption

He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Yes, but that means we must have faith in Him, obeying Him and becoming like Him, and that brings us confidence, because He's in us, and we don't have our lamp hidden, but are cleaned up:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

We are wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:15 - and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

We must put our trust in Jesus and believe Him and obey Him, and be cleaned up, shining His light:

I Corinthians 1:28-29 - God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Psalms 5:5 - The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. (ESV)

The cross means a changed life, becoming like Jesus, keeping Jesus' commandments:

Galatians 6:13-15 - For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. (ESV)

16.8.2 Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God

God through Jesus is the source of our personal righteousness as we are found in Him, and our righteousness comes through Him. That personal righteousness doesn't belong to us alone, but it also belongs to Christ because it comes from Christ:

Philippians 1:9-11 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

16.9 Sanctification is being cleaned from sin and brought into believing and practicing truth

It means sin is being stopped in your thoughts and deeds, brought out of believing and practicing darkness into believing and practicing truth - being cleaned from sin.

To be sanctified means to have God's law on one's heart and mind so that they are walking in the light, obeying God, and God forgives them:

Leviticus 22:31-33 - So you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD. And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:10-17 - And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being **sanctified**. And the **Holy Spirit also bears witness** to us; for after saying, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my **laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds**, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. (ESV)

How do we get there, to being sanctified? Firstly, we need a new heart that fears God and responds to correction by Him. God gives us that heart and puts a new spirit in us.

God wants us to fear Him and receive correction from Him:

Zephaniah 3:6-7 - I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant. **I said, Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.** But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt. (ESV)

When does He do that, though? If we seek God, draw near to God, through faith in Jesus Christ, through obedience to Jesus Christ, trusting in Him, or through obeying Jesus Christ, through repenting from sin and putting faith in God, through obeying God, God will draw near to us. God will help us. He will give us a new heart and put a new spirit in us. From my experience it certainly seems as though a genuine turning away from sin was an important step towards becoming born-again of the spirit. I felt like I needed God to save me. Then I sought after God and he gave me a new heart and a new spirit.

Now with that new heart which fears God, we must respond to correction by God as He disciplines us. We come into agreement with Him over issues of what is sinful. We try to become obedient to God and to Christ is all things that God wants for us. We try to keep Jesus' teachings and commandments. So, for example, we trust in Jesus Christ and trust in His blood, we believe He died for our sins and rose from the dead for our justification. We come into agreement with these things. We confess to others too. We confess sin as sin. We come into agreement with what God says. We fall out of agreement with the lies. Scripture doesn't contradict scripture, so we trust scripture and lean not on our own understanding. When people say to us falsehoods that are against what Scripture says, we trust the scripture. But when people speak to us scripture, and we don't believe it, when we need to recognise the scripture's authority and Holy Spirit will teach us. We confess what the Scripture says is True, even if we don't understand it. Whatever the true meaning behind the scripture was when the scripture was written, that is the truth. We need Holy Spirit to help us understand scripture.

We are sanctified by faith in Jesus (trusting Jesus):

Acts 26:16-18 - But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are **sanctified by faith in me.** (ESV)

By faith in Jesus (trusting Jesus), we are sanctified in Truth:

John 17:19 - And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be **sanctified in truth.** (ESV)

In trusting Jesus (having faith in Jesus), we are sanctified in Truth by the Holy Spirit:

Romans 15:15-16 - But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, **sanctified by the Holy Spirit.** (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:11-13 - For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks (G2168 eucharisteo) to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning (G746 arche) for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit **and** faith (G4102 pistis) in the truth (G225 aletheia). (NASB)

Cleaned up from sin by having faith in the truth.

Faith in the truth - strong faith word! Belief and ongoing faithfulness, trust, reliance.

1 : 4102 pistis pis'-tis
2
3 from 3982; persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious
4 truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially
5 reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such
6 profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth
7 itself:--assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.
8 see GREEK for 3982

God opens/softens our hearts to be receptive or hardens them to be unreceptive to what is said to us, but from our angle, we still receive or reject voluntarily. God guides and leads we're still asked to seek, receive, trust, obey and follow Jesus Christ and His teachings. Yes, salvation is by grace through faith, and it's a free gift, but we still trust and obey Jesus to be saved:

Acts 16:13-14 - And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (ESV)

16.9.1 Corruption remains a problem even for the regenerated

The 1689 Baptist confession affirms that the problem of corruption remains after regeneration:

1 Paragraph 5
2
3 The corruption of nature, during this life,
4 does remain in those that are regenerated;¹³
5 and although it be through Christ pardoned and
6 mortified, yet both itself, and the first
7 motions thereof, are truly and properly sin.¹⁴
8
9 13 Rom. 7:18,23; Eccles. 7:20; 1 John 1:8
10 14 Rom. 7:23-25; Gal. 5:17

Romans 7:23-25 - but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

I affirm that even after regeneration and being healed, corruption has remained a problem for me, partly because of the influence the world I live in has had on me, but also because I need to be renewed in mind:

- the influences of worldly people, and

– **I Corinthians 15:33** - Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals. (ESV)

- the influences of demons
- I need to just focus on Jesus more

So sanctification has continued for me after being regenerated. Being sanctified by the Truth by faith in Jesus Christ is and has been a fight.

But for the person born of God, they have died to sin, it no longer has a legal hold over them, they cannot keep on doing it, they absolutely hate the sin and we fight against it. We are being sanctified as we come into alignment with the Truth, walking in the light, believing and obeying the Truth, Word of God.

Romans 8:1-4 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, **he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** (ESV)

I John 1:9 - If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

For it to be said of us that we have "ceased from sin" we must have the same mind of Jesus, as in, we must have "suffered in the flesh", and what I think this means is our old self crucified, the body of sin is being brought to nothing, we resist sin:

Romans 6:6-9 - We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (ESV)

I John 3:9 - No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (ESV)

I Peter 4:1 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, **for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,** (ESV)

16.9.2 Bad desire - leads to death. We do not want to be enslaved to corruption

Book timothykeller.com: Counterfeit Gods - Timothy Keller

Sermon [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com): Counterfeit Gods - Tim Keller

Lust is super bad, even after born-again:

II Peter 2:19-21 - They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known **the way of righteousness** than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

16.9.3 Good desire - Love God and one's neighbour

Deuteronomy 11:13 - And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

Deuteronomy 30:6 - And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Joshua 22:5 - Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Luke 10:27 - And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

17 Clearing up justifying faith vs justifying works - It's faith in *Jesus Himself* that matters. Also, it's God who justifies us, not we who justify ourselves. We have faith in God to justify us, as we place our faith in Him

I believe that when a person **actually** obeys Jesus' commandments out of love for Jesus, this isn't working for justification, but is as if Jesus is working through them.

Jesus is the Rock:

I Corinthians 10:4 - and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ**. (ESV)

Belief is important (and is an initial act of obedience):

Matthew 16:15-18 - He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**. And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

Obedience is important:

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

Jehovah is the Rock:

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 - For I will proclaim the name of the LORD (3068. Yhvḥ); ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. (ESV)

Isaiah 44:8 - Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:4 - and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (ESV)

It seems reasonable to me to say that God the Father and God the Son share their names/onomas:

John 5:43 - I have come in my Father's name (**onomati**), and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. (ESV)

Genesis 19:24 seems to read that **while the LORD was on earth** investigating Sodom He rained sulfur and fire **from the LORD in heaven**. Does this indicate more than one Person acting as the LORD? Starting at Genesis 18:1:

Genesis 18:1 - And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. (ESV)

Genesis 18:20-23 - Then the LORD said, Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, **I will go down to see** whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know. So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham **still stood before the LORD**. Then Abraham drew near and said, Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? (ESV)

It's definitely Almighty God, the Judge of all the earth:

Genesis 18:25-26 - Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just? And the LORD said, If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake. (ESV)

Genesis 18:32-33 - Then he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there. He answered, For the sake of ten I will not destroy it. And **the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.** (ESV)

Genesis 19:24 - Then **the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.** (ESV)

There wasn't an age in which He (Jesus, God's Word, God's Son) didn't exist:

youtube.com: You Should Know This As A Christian | Sam Shamoun {@ApologeticsCut-ec2bp} So, the Father and Son and Spirit equally are the Creator. The second cause of the universe after the Father, the true and only begotten son of God, the Lord and God and King of all created things.

Proverbs 8 is Jesus Christ speaking through Solomon as prehuman wisdom. He says that's Jesus speaking as wisdom. So I don't need to read that. Proverbs 8. Let me skip that. He's quoting Proverbs 8. It's verses 1 to 36.

So what does he say about this wisdom that's speaking? I wisdom.

Proverbs 8:12 - I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion. (ESV)

Who is this wisdom speaking saying the Lord created me meaning begott me and then use me to create everything. Who is that? That the divine word therefore pre-existed appeared to some if not all has thus been briefly shown by us. You see what he's saying? He's saying look he spoke through Solomon. He spoke through David. He made himself known to David and Solomon. He spoke and made himself known to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, to Moses, to Joshua, to Isaiah. That's Jesus.

The Father speaking to His Son:

Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. (ESV)

The Son carrying out the will of the Father:

Genesis 1:6-7 - And God said, Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters. And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. (ESV)

Hebrews 1:2 - but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (ESV)

Colossians 1:16-17 - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (ESV)

Jesus is commander in chief:

Joshua 5:13-15 - When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, Are you for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, What does my lord say to his servant? And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy. And Joshua did so. (ESV)

Building our lives on Jesus means believing Him and obeying Him:

Matthew 7:24-27 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (ESV)

John 5:37-40 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. (ESV)

youtube.com: How to Find Gold in God's Word: Reading the Bible with Supernatural Help

If I hear Jesus' commandment to repent from sin, for example, and I obediently repent, then that is walking by faith. Since faith comes from hearing the word of Christ - and there faith could come from any part of His teaching. So if I try to actually follow Jesus' commandments, and that leads me to believe that Jesus is who He says He is (consider the Apostle Thomas and his slow belief), then when I arrive at a belief that Jesus is who He says He is, the Son of God, and the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed one, the obedience of one of Jesus commandments leads to more belief and more obedience.

The demons believe and shudder. They do not love God. They do not love the light. And because they do not love the truth, they don't practice the truth. All the law and prophets depend on the 2 great commandments to love the Lord our God out of all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength and to love our neighbour as ourself:

We must "walk in the light" (love in the truth, love in the light, love in actuality, from the heart). We can't love in truth while denying Christ, for example (John 3:14-19, I John 4:1-3). And we can't love in the truth while hating our family in Christ (I John 3:14-20). We love because God loved us first (I John 4:6-19). Loving in the truth also means that it is out of faith in the truth (Romans 14:23), out of sincere love for God (I Corinthians 16:22), endeavouring to do what God wants us to do, seeking to please God (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 8:3-10, Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 1:1-10), in the truth (accepting God loved us first, II John 1:1-3), unlike a whitewashed-wall Pharisee who doesn't do their works from a *truly* obedient heart (I Peter 2:6-9). Good deeds come out of sincerely obeying Jesus Christ out of faith in Him. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us and He commanded us to love our family in Christ as a must. We must love our family in Christ. The deeds will come from a genuine love in the truth from the heart:

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

No joke, we **must** take care of our family in Christ who are in need. That is a must. Be the good Samaritan to our family in Christ when they need our help. If a person knows what good he ought to do and doesn't do it then for that person it is sin. If we are to love in truth then when we know what good we ought to do, we should then be doing it:

James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a **brother or sister** is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

When James ask the question, "Can that faith save him?" John asks the question, "How does God's love abide in him? John also shows that it's a matter of the heart, and it's a matter of having the love of God. So what James is talking about with dead faith is having a faith that doesn't do the good they ought to have done because the love of God wasn't there in the heart. So we can't take genuine agape-love out of the equation when we talk about good deeds. We need the breastplate of faith and love. Holding faith in (trusting) the truth and loving the truth and obeying the truth are all important. The deed needs to come out of faith and love. What's not done in faith is sin, and what is not done out of apape-love is unlawful:

I John 3:17 - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, **how does God's love abide in him?** (ESV)

It's not possible to be simultaneously walking in faith and knowing the right thing to do but not doing it. So that means walking by faith involves endeavouring to maintain a good conscience with God:

James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (ESV)

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid

down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

The breastplate of righteousness is a breastplate of faith and love. We need to keep Jesus Christ's commandments lawfully and that means holding our faith in love of the truth. It means loving the truth. We don't believe and shudder. We believe and love God, and love those who are born of Him. We have to keep the 2 Great Commandments as well:

- **I Thessalonians 5:8** - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

God gives us a new heart which fears Him, trusts Him and receives and accepts His words, trusts Him and loves to obey Him, and finds His commandments to not be grievous. God puts a new spirit in us and causes us to walk in His precepts. At the same time we want to. We want to obey God. He does it in a way where He adopts children who love keeping His commandments, Christ's commandments, rather than doing it by being forced to. And His number one commandment is to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. So God gives us a heart in order to love Him. And to love one-another. God gives us a new heart. But we still obey those commandments willfully:

God wants us to desire to do His will, not grieve doing it:

II Corinthians 9:7 - Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (ESV)

Mark 12:41-44 - And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on. (ESV)

We love Jesus and want to be around Him. We desire/love to do God's commandments instead of grieve to do them. We love God and His commandments and desire to do His will.

I John 5:1-2 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God **and** obey his commandments. (ESV)

I John 5:3-5 - For this is the love of God, that **we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.** And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?** (ESV)

Acts 28:27 - For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And **understand with their heart and return**, And I would heal them.”

In Christ Jesus, we may boast of our works that Christ accomplishes through us:

Romans 15:17-18 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, (ESV)

Even from James' perspective, it's clearly apparent that God surely can forgive people without work on their part:

James 5:15-16 - And **the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick**, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (ESV)

I think the solution to the justification by 'faith without work' and justification by 'faith with works' apparent paradox is that:

- if a person is actually obeying Jesus then the works can be attributed to Jesus, and
- obedience is just one aspect of faith.

Because it's faith in **Jesus Himself** that matters.

Jesus makes it clear that the ones who truly believe in Him **will do the works which He does**:

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

James believes that people can see the evidence of faith by works:

James 2:22-26 - You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works**; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (ESV)

But works by us done in righteousness are **not** the reason God showed mercy on us to save us. In fact we were all at one point disobedient. God in His mercy simply gave us His Holy Spirit in abundance to wash us, to regenerate us and to renew us, and He did this so that being justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. We were once really disobedient, but by God's grace through faith in Jesus we are now obedient. The faith was **becoming obedient** to Jesus, and out of it flows good works and obedience:

Titus 3:3-8 - For we ourselves were **once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures**, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of **the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through **Jesus Christ our Savior**, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. (ESV)

So Jesus saves us to become set free from various passions and pleasures and to become far more obedient to righteousness, and this is done through faith in Jesus Christ. Believing in Jesus Christ is the entry point for the salvation that is through Him.

So the point I'm trying to make is that the free gift of **the Holy Spirit** is received by faith alone, just be trusting in Jesus Christ to be saved, but Jesus Christ helps us to become slaves of righteousness which leads to eternal life.

Therefore I still think there's a false dichotomy between faith and works - because obedience is intrinsic to faith, but the gift of **the Holy Spirit** remains a completely free gift which is received through faith and that **merit** by works of righteousness is not the reason **why** it's given to us, but nevertheless, the Holy Spirit is given to those who obey Him.

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might **receive the promised Spirit through faith**. (ESV)

Some people think that this obedience means it's no longer a free gift, where I do not agree with those people. I think that the obedience to Jesus is receiving the free gift through faith.

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that **you believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him whom he has sent.** (ESV)

True faith is always obedient; faith is always prepared to obey more:

John 7:17- If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

Through faith in Jesus / obedience to Jesus we can have faith in Father God:

I Peter 1:20-22 - He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who **through him are believers in God**, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God**. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

You can't even have faith in God without obeying Jesus because the one who has faith in God has already obeyed Jesus whether they know about Mark 11:22 or not. So it's not a dead work.

Philippians 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, (ESV)

Having believed in Jesus, having begun to trust in Jesus, we have become obedient to Jesus. Jesus works on us as we trust in Him even before we understand what He's doing, and we have become obedient because he commanded us to trust Him:

John 13:6-7 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper God is saying, "I have done everything from eternity past in the for knowing of my son to eternity future in the glorifying of my son that you might hope in Me, God!" So that you might not hope in what sin can offer you, but hope in what God can offer you.

The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life. Therefore, he who hopes in sin dies, and he who hopes in God lives forever.

Everything has been done for you that you might escape from the futile way of sin and put your hope in God forever.

I close by calling you to wake up to the folly of hoping in sin and to stop trying to satisfy your hearts with sin and to start satisfying your hearts with God.

And justifying faith is having obedient faith in God with regards to the promise given to Abraham. Obeying God **is** having faith in God. Obeying God **is** loving God. AMEN!!

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, Have (G2192 echo) faith (G4102 pistis) in God (G2316 theos). (ESV)

pistis is the faith noun.

John 14:1 - “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe (G4100 pisteuo) in God, believe (G4100 pisteuo) also in Me. (NASB)

pisteuo is the faith verb.

echo means ‘to hold’ - so in **Mark 11:22** Jesus says ‘hold faith’ in God. And in **John 14:1** Jesus tells us to ‘do faith’ in God and to ‘do faith’ in Him.

If you are believing in Jesus, then you are obediently working. But we need to continue in the doctrine of Christ, the teaching of Christ, the commandments of Christ:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

To be justified by working faith, a person must have the faith of Abraham. By faith Abraham obeyed. So the faith has the fruit of walking in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the uncircumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Having faith in God **is** obeying God. Loving God **is** obeying God. AMEN!!

So what Jesus is saying is quite similar - we must have the faith that Abraham had when he put Isaac on the Altar, but in regards to following Jesus:

Luke 9:23-24 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (ESV)

17.0.1 Salvation by obedience

We need to believe and **then** call on Jesus to save us, (usually out of desperation). This is another act of obedience to the Gospel. We don’t call on a law to save us; we call on Jesus to save us. That looks like beating hand on chest, wanting to turn from sin and begging God to save us:

Romans 10:12-14 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved**. But how are they to **call on him** in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (ESV)

Ironically, I feel like this word *hypakouō* which means to “fully hearken” (it’s an intensification of the verb “to listen” with connotations of paying attention and responding to obey) may have been “demoted” in meaning by many people to not at all mean “fully hearken to / become obedient to the command”:

Romans 10:16 - But they have not all obeyed (G5219. *hypakouō - I listen, hearken to, obey, answer*) the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed (G4100 *pisteuō*) what he has heard from us? (ESV)

Acts 5:29-32 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

youtube.com: Came To My Rescue - Emmy Rose | Moment {@BethelMusic} I called, You answered; And You came to my rescue; And I, I wanna be where You are

Luke 11:9-13 - And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (ESV)

Faith in God is obedient. Faith in Jesus is obedient:

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

While people may debate whether faith is exactly obedience, we must conclude that there is at least some overlap. Faith is obedient because it's commanded. True obedience to Jesus qualifies as loving Jesus:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

It might also be said that true obedience to Jesus can only be done in faith.

We know that true faith is obedient to the commandment of God. To say that faith isn't obedient is heresy:

Romans 16:25-27 - Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (ESV)

Jesus Christ was obedient to Father God. We are saved through obedience to Jesus Christ, Son of God:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9-10 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

We are found inside Christ, keeping Christ's commandments:

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Jesus wants us to keep His commandments. If a person keeps Jesus' commandments and abides by His teachings then that surely shows they have agape love for Jesus and I don't believe a person can have agape love for Jesus without faith in Him. Jesus has authority to command the wind and the waves and even demons but the type of obedience I think Jesus wants from us is to keep His Law in unity of faith, truth and love:

II Corinthians 10:5-7 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. (ESV)

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Titus 1:9 - He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (ESV)

The gospel of Jesus is in accordance to sound doctrine, and being lawless and disobedient is contrary to sound doctrine:

I Timothy 1:5-11 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurors, and whatever else is contrary to **sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.** (ESV)

We renounce ungodliness and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age:

Titus 2:9-14 - Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

Whilst I like to make a distinction between the words obedience and 'works', the following verse illustrates that there is some overlap between faith and good works, and thus faith and obedience:

James 2:18 - But someone will say, You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (ESV)

Where there is perfect belief, I think there is perfect obedience. i.e. if we hold firm to belief in Jesus, keeping and believing His sayings and obey Jesus through testing, we have eternal life and will see life:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 πιστεύων (pisteuōn): This is the present participle form of the verb “πιστεύω” (G4100 pisteuō), meaning “to believe” or “to have faith.” In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as “believing.”

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuōn - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. katechó) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

I am confident also that if we hold firm to obedience in Jesus keeping and obeying His sayings and believe Jesus through testing, we have eternal life and will see life:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

Since Jesus commanded us to have faith in Him, to trust in Jesus is to have obeyed Him.

Quote by John Piper God is saying, "I have done everything from eternity past in the for knowing of my son to eternity future in the glorifying of my son that you might hope in Me, God!" So that you might not hope in what sin can offer you, but hope in what God can offer you.

The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life. Therefore, he who hopes in sin dies, and he who hopes in God lives forever.

Everything has been done for you that you might escape from the futile way of sin and put your hope in God forever.

I close by calling you to wake up to the folly of hoping in sin and to stop trying to satisfy your hearts with sin and to start satisfying your hearts with God.

Through faith in Jesus, and obedience to Jesus we can have faith in Father God:

I Peter 1:20-22 - He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who **through him are believers in God**, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God**. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Have faith in God:

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, Have (G2192 echo) faith (G4102 pistis) in God (G2316 theos).

Have faith in God and have faith in Jesus:

John 14:1 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe (G4100 pisteuo) in God, believe (G4100 pisteuo) also in Me.

Pisteuo means to trust. Trust in God, trust also in God's Son Jesus:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts** (G4100 pisteuo) him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

Learning to trust in Jesus, learning to trust Jesus, as we obey Him and witness His glory, and come to trust in Him, to believe in Him. Obedience to Jesus leads to witnessing His glory which inspires our faith:

John 2:7-11 - **Jesus said to the servants, Fill the jars with water. And they filled them up to the brim.** And he said to them, Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast. So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now. **This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples (G3101 mathetes) believed (G4100 pisteuo) in him.** (ESV)

1 : 3101 **mathetes** math-ay-tes'
2
3 from 3129; a learner, i.e. pupil:--disciple.
4 see GREEK for 3129

As we see trusting in Jesus and trusting Jesus go hand-in-hand. Jesus has already spoken, and Jesus' words still speak and are active. Do we trust His words? Trusting His words and trusting Him go hand-in-hand. If we trust Jesus, we will obey Him. If we obey Jesus, we will see His glory. If we see His glory, our faith in Him will increase.

We trust in God to take care of us, as He leads us.

Having believed in Jesus, having begun to trust in Jesus, we have become obedient to Jesus. Jesus works on us as we trust in Him even before we understand what He's doing, and we have become obedient because he commanded us to trust Him:

John 13:6-7 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. (ESV)

We abide in Jesus when He washes us. When the Holy Spirit washes us, the Holy Spirit helps us to put sin to death:

John 13:8 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Peter believed/received/obeyed/trusted like a child of God (he cooperated) to let Jesus wash him but it was Jesus doing the work:

John 13:9 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! (ESV)

Jesus' servants (people who obey Him) are found **in him**. Jesus' servants are those who have been washed, and they ought to then wash:

Psalms 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his **servants**; none of those who take refuge **in him** will be condemned. (ESV)

The Israelites didn't "work for God" as they obeyed God to walk through the Red Sea. Walking in obedience is not the same as "working". The Israelites were an actual part of the miracle of going through the Red Sea. The miracle wasn't just the water splitting, the Israelites walking through it was also miraculous. By obeying God, God sent them through the Red Sea.

In obeying God, God helps us:

Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (ESV)

God gave Moses conditional power to split the sea if Moses was obedient. I believe that's what God wants to do with us in terms of abiding in Christ and God working through us. Jesus just wants us to believe Him and obey Him. I believe Jesus wants us to both believe Him and obey Him:

Exodus 14:14-16 - The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The LORD said to Moses, Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. **Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it**, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. (ESV)

I just want to be clear that good works we do in obedience to Jesus are still considered a gift to us. We work out what God has worked for. It's even a gift to be in position of being able to do good works in service to Jesus after He has washed us:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

No-one can boast to God:

I Corinthians 1:28-29 - God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that **no human being might boast in the presence of God.** (ESV)

Before God, no-one can boast of being justified by works done apart from God:

Romans 4:2 - For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. (ESV)

See even the Apostle Paul from my perspective has entertained the idea that a person could be justified by works but that **they cannot boast before God**, and I would say because they were saved by their work because they were obedient to God and out of that obedient heart, they did what God had instructed them to do to be saved:

James 2:24 - You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. (ESV)

Justification and redemption are a total gift:

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

The redemption (ongoing sanctification) is granted as a gift through faith in Jesus:

Romans 3:24-25 - and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (ESV)

Justification by working-faith (obedience to the gospel producing works) and justification by so-called 'faith alone' is, in my opinion, not a dichotomy, because all the good works we do as a consequence of being redeemed are a gift to us - us being **in Him**:

- **Eph 2:8** - For by grace you have been saved through faith (G4102 pistis); and that not of yourselves, it is the gift (G1435 doron) of God; (NASB)
- **Eph 2:9** - not as a result of works (G2041 ergon), so that no one may boast. (NASB)
- **Eph 2:10** - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (G2041 ergon), which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (NASB)

John Piper puts it this way: "The first act of saving faith justifies and the subsequent ones justify too". That's an interesting theory, but it's also God who justifies, not us, so we should let God be God, trust Jesus and serve Him:

[youtube.com: Though Our Faith May Falter @time: 8 min 52 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDwzgkxPjyA) The faith to which God looks when

He justifies us is a kind of faith which perseveres by God's design so that He can look at that faith at it's first twinkling awakening and say, "Not guilty. You are justified, accepted, forgiven and the righteousness of my Son is yours on the basis of that faith." And, He can look at any given point at the unfolding of that faith throughout your life and say, "For this you are justified, and for this you are justified and for this you are justified." So the continuance of faith is the faith which justifies and the reason you can say, "I am and have been justified", as Romans 5:1-2 does say "having been justified", is because that perseverance is a property as it were contained in the authenticity of the first act of saving faith.

I Corinthians 1:4-8 - I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

Romans 3:26 - It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.** (ESV)

By His grace we have to actually come into obeying Jesus to find life. Think about what it means to obey Jesus: It's to walk in the Spirit, to abide in Jesus' Spirit, to be obeying Jesus' commandments, to seek to follow the pattern of life that He lived to be found in Him. You can abide in Jesus' Spirit if you have faith in Him, believing in Him, believing, trusting and obeying Him, knowing Him, and being found in Him!

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

Faith in Christ I believe means believing in Him and being obedient to Him, having communion with Him, etc. becoming intimate with Him, following Him. This isn't our own merit, but we still obey Jesus to be found in Him. In Him we have Jesus' righteousness:

Jesus' servants (people who obey Him) are found **in him**. Jesus' servants are those who have been washed, and they ought to then wash:

Psalms 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his **servants**; none of those who take refuge **in him** will be condemned. (ESV)

Matthew 16:25 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for my sake** will find it. (ESV)

We are instructed to work for God:

II John 1:8 - Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. (ESV)

Once again, we are instructed to work for God:

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

Jesus has literally taught people that if we love our enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return we will be rewarded and be sons of the Most High. This shows that obedience to Jesus is just part of having faith in Jesus:

Luke 6:35-36 - But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

The prophets, saints, and servants of Jesus will be rewarded:

Revelation of John 11:18 - The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:6 - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, (ESV)

We are slaves to Christ Jesus:

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

As a result of being born of the Spirit and subsequent obedience to Jesus' commandments has resulted in a huge amount of worldly resistance, and also I've had to fight against a spirit of justification by law compliance, and I've had to fight against a spirit which denies my sins were atoned for and tries to get me to do good works for justification. I still do good works out of obedience but I resist the spirit pressuring me to work for justification (it is a very vindictive, Christ-denying spirit, and it is incredibly persistent):

Galatians 4:29 - But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. (ESV)

I have no problem with explaining myself as the Apostle Paul also led by example and used his own life experience as an example to teach others:

II Timothy 4:7-8 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. (ESV)

Philippians 3:17-18 - Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now having been freed from sin and **enslaved to God**, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

Connecting **Romans 6:22** to **Hebrews 13:12**, the result of being enslaved to God, obeying God and Christian suffering, results in our sanctification.

Jesus' sacrifice outside Jerusalem is so that we might be sanctified through His own blood and come into Jerusalem. I still think that there's nothing wrong with bearing the reproach Jesus endured - in fact it's encouraged. I think we bear His reproach in order to be sanctified and then call new Jerusalem our home:

Hebrews 13:12-14 - So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (ESV)

I Peter 4:12-13 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. (ESV)

So to be a slave of righteousness serving Jesus results in sanctification and also calling the Jerusalem above our mother and our home:

Galatians 4:25-26 - Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. (ESV)

Galatians 4:27 - For it is written, Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband. (ESV)

We are not children of the slave woman but we are children of the free woman:

Galatians 4:28-31 - Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But **just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now**. But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

Bible study youtube.com: You Are a Child of the Free Woman: Galatians 4:21-31, Part 8 @time: 2 min 6 sec

So John Piper is taking the Apostle John's writing in **II John 1:9** and saying that Apostle John is warning against people talking about justification through works, but I don't think that's what the Apostle John is talking about. But I think it's important to affirm Lord Jesus's teaching. And we should be corrected by the Lord's teaching. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

I Timothy 6:3-4 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, (ESV)

I think the Apostle John means that new believers need to go on to abide in Jesus' teachings, and I suspect that John Piper may be interpreting the verse the same way, but focusing on interpreting the Apostle John's verse to be against justification by works - but I read **II John 1:9** as saying we must abide in the full set of teachings of Jesus and the Apostle John is warning about people who oppose Jesus' teachings to love one another, forgive one another, repent from sin, etc., and oppose the truth which is that Jesus has come in the flesh.

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

I feel like having love for Jesus is inseparable with believing Him and believing in Him for one of Jesus' sheep:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

II John 1:5-10 - And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Noah's obedience, or Abraham's obedience, I think are just living by faith, and that's how I reconcile **James 2:14-26**.

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (ESV)

Obedience / living by faith is just working faith / walking by faith:

We must "walk in the light" (love in the truth, love in the light, love in actuality, from the heart). We can't love in truth while denying Christ, for example (John 3:14-19, I John 4:1-3). And we can't love in the truth while hating our family in Christ (I John 3:14-20). We love because God loved us first (I John 4:6-19). Loving in the truth also means that it is out of faith in the truth (Romans 14:23), out of sincere love for God (I Corinthians 16:22), endeavouring to do what God wants us to do, seeking to please God (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 8:3-10, Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 1:1-10), in the truth (accepting God loved us first, II John 1:1-3), unlike a whitewashed-wall Pharisee who doesn't do their works from a *truly* obedient heart (I Peter 2:6-9). Good deeds come out of sincerely obeying Jesus Christ out of faith in Him. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us and He commanded us to love our family in Christ as a must. We must love our family in Christ. The deeds will come from a genuine love in the truth from the heart:

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

No joke, we **must** take care of our family in Christ who are in need. That is a must. Be the good Samaritan to our family in Christ when they need our help. If a person knows what good he ought to do and doesn't do it then for that person it is sin. If we are to love in truth then when we know what good we ought to do, we should then be doing it:

James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a **brother or sister** is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Notes for **James 2:14-26**:

- **Can that faith save him?** - Good question.
- **If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** - True. I believe a person receives God's work in us by being obedient to Him.
- **Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, faith apart from works is useless?** - I agree. That's why I think God saves us by working in us while we are obedient to Him.
- **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works** - AMEN. In Abraham's case, his faith was completed by his works.
- **You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.** - I believe that Jesus has done the work that we may be justified by faith alone with His works, and that Jesus, having first been perfectly obedient Himself, works in us to save us, sanctify us as we are obedient to Him, following Him.

Before God, no-one can boast of being justified by works done apart from God:

Romans 4:2 - For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. (ESV)

See even the Apostle Paul from my perspective has entertained the idea that a person could be justified by works but that **they cannot boast before God**, and I would say because they were saved by their work because they were obedient to God and out of that obedient heart, they did what God had instructed them to do to be saved:

James 2:24 - You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. (ESV)

Also, Jesus' own work on the cross is sufficient work for us to be justified by faith alone without our own work, but that does not mean we should not 'work'/walk for God through obedience which is characteristic of faith, even for our salvation, or be sanctified in the Truth through trusting obedience to God, and arrive at the knowledge of the Truth, even that Jesus Christ is the propitiation of our sin and works in us to save us.

Philippians 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, (ESV)

Faith that from a good conscience with God produces Christ's love:

I Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

When James mentions "justification by works", he actually is referring to justification by obedient faith (obedient faith is still faith):

James 2:25 - And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (ESV)

Hebrews 11:31 links obedience to works in **James 2:25**:

Hebrews 11:31 - By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (ESV)

Jesus bore our sins in His body on the tree so that we **might** die to sin and live to righteousness. We are also supposed to live in the truth and in the love of God, ourselves practicing the love of Christ, and entrust ourselves to God, even when others make things more difficult.

I Peter 2:22-24 - He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

You'll be able to see who has been healed by their fruits.

God is still very busy working:

John 5:17 - But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. (ESV)

We are God's workmanship:

Ephesians 2:7-10 - so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

We absolutely must have a response of love for God - we must abide in Christ's love to abide in God.

Which commandments must we keep? Jesus' commandments - Jesus' sayings and commandments which Father God commanded Him to speak. Also, it's worth learning from the Apostles who were with Jesus. Some commandments of Jesus are divulged and better understood from their writings.

Jesus kept Father God's commandments including the commandment of what to say and speak to us. Jesus' words and sayings and commandments which God gave Him to speak to us are what we should keep. His commandments are eternal life for us:

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

From infants in Christ to maturity, people who keep Jesus' commandments are found in Christ who is in God:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes

from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:1-5 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Because God loved us *first*:

- The Apostle Paul endeavours to know Jesus ('makes it his own'. See **Php 3:9-13**) because *Jesus made Paul His own*
 - To be found in Jesus **is** what Paul describes as the righteousness from God that depends on faith
 - * **Philippians 3:8-12** - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)
 - * **I Thessalonians 5:8** - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)
 - * **I John 3:23-24** - And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.** **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)
 - * **Ephesians 6:14** - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, (ESV)
 - * **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce **the righteousness that God requires.** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)

- We know Jesus by believing in Him and obeying His commandments, and when we love and forgive we know *God loved us and forgave us first*
 - * **I John 2:3-6** - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
- We must love because *He loved us first* for God to abide in us
 - **Romans 5:7-8** - For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)
 - **I John 4:9-12** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)
- We must forgive as we have been forgiven
 - **Colossians 3:12-14** - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)

- We must be conformed to holiness

- **I Peter 1:14-16** - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. (ESV)

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings**, **becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

The redemption in Christ Jesus is a gift, and is a substitutionary atonement that is received through faith in Jesus, which is supposed to result in us passing forward love and forgiveness, and putting sin to death.

As far as "obtaining the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" goes, or sharing in Jesus' holiness, a limited analogy may be that this works like a blood transfusion, or a like Jesus' car battery recharging our car battery, that should be received by faith, faith which includes the belief of faith and the obedience of faith, such as obedience to the discipline of Christ, that should yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness as we then seek to imitate Christ, passing forward love and forgiveness and endeavoring to be holy.

Holiness is brought to completion in the fear of God:

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, **bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.** (ESV)

John Piper's aim in this sermon is that:

- 1st: those of you who preach and teach the word of God would do so in a way that makes clear the effective connection between the sin bearing work of Christ and the sin killing work of the Christian
- 2nd: that you would make clear the effective connection between canceled sin and conquered sin
- 3rd: that you would make clear the effective connection between the horrors of Christ's suffering and the holiness of Christ's people
- 4th: that you would make clear the release of people from guilt and how it effectively connects with the securing of their lives of righteousness
- 5th: that you would make clear the effective connection between justification by his blood and progressive sanctification by that same blood, and
- 6th: Finally, that you would make clear the effective connection between the tearing off of the flesh of Christ in crucifixion and the tearing out of your eye in the battle against lust.

Referring to **1 Peter 1:18-20:**

Quote by John Piper "He does not say you were ransomed from guilt. He does not say you were ransomed from condemnation. He does not say you were ransomed from satan. He does not say you were ransomed from hell. He said you were ransomed from **ways. Live in holy conduct because He bought it with blood.**"

I Peter 1:14-20 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "Conduct yourself in holiness because you know you were ransomed from unholiness. You were ransomed from futile ways into holy ways."

Quote by John Piper It's not enough to say that God paid the ransom for His wife - so God's wife is kidnapped, she's across the plaza, and He's going to get her, for Himself, and he pays an **infinite** price, and it's not as though she steps out free from her captors and goes and shacks up with another man! That didn't happen at the cross. It doesn't happen. He doesn't fail in His purchases. He's not impotent. His blood is not ineffective. It was not in vain. The ransom bought a new life for His people, a new holiness for His people. They will walk in the way He bought. If they don't, they have no warrant to believe they're His.

AMEN!!

If we keep His commandments, keep His works we will reign with Him:

II Timothy 2:12-13 - if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:26 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, (ESV)

I believe that becoming the righteousness of God is **cooperative** when we begin trusting God through trusting Jesus and as we continue walking by faith, submitting to the righteousness of God (Jesus' righteousness), being found in Jesus and continuing to be found in Jesus, trusting in Him and not denying Him, letting Jesus wash us, and work in us and we working out our own salvation, transform us and purify us as we cleanse ourselves while trusting in Him, and that a childlike trust in Jesus (a believing and obedient trust), following Jesus, walking in faith, and behaving as one of God's children, following Jesus our Lord and Saviour is how we receive and walk into the kingdom which is given to us and that walking in a childlike faith in Jesus is how we have the righteousness that is by faith.

I believe we have righteousness because we are found **in** Him, and He is our High Priest and or Lord and King, and Saviour. Living by faith is a lifestyle to be found in Jesus and that's how we have righteousness from Him, because we are found **in** Him and are being perfected and sanctified (in genuine agape love and holiness) like a branch getting healthier because it's connected to Jesus. It does not mean we are able to displace Him as the head of the body because we don't have righteousness apart from Him (as far as I understand):

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God**. **Working together with him**, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jesus carried His cross, bore our shame, bore our sin that we might become the righteousness of God; that we might bear others' shame, and pass forward love and forgiveness:

I Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

A limited analogy If I had \$10 and wanted to help a person who asked for money, I could choose to give them only \$5 and wait around for the next person who needed money, or I could give the \$10 to the person who asked and then suggest to them that they ought to help someone else instead of use it all themselves. In this way, God gifts us the ability to gift others.

So working together with Jesus, and thanks to being born-again and empowered by Jesus' spirit, Jesus helps us to put to death sin in our own body, forgive those who we had a grudge with, do good works, etc. repent, be sanctified, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted**. (ESV)

By His stripes we are healed, and then we live to serve Jesus:

Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (ESV)

Jesus washed out feet. Now we wash others' feet. A saint, having been forgiven and love by Jesus passes forward this love and forgiveness and bears other people's burdens:

John 13:14-15 - If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (ESV)

A saint, having been forgiven and love by Jesus passes forward this love and forgiveness and bears other people's burdens:

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

I believe we should have a noticeable change of heart and behaviour as a result of trusting obedient faith in Jesus:

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

We are healed by His wounds - a lot of Christians try to suppress the "We are healed" bit. We should also notice that healing comes with stopping sinning. Jesus bore our sins in His body on the tree so that we might forsake sin, stop obeying it, and live righteous lives in holiness and doing good out of obedience to God:

I Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

I think we should always be seeking the glory of our Jesus Christ, not seeking our own glory. Personally, my motivations for writing this Bible Study document, and for 'good works' etc. is simply because:

- I am remorseful for the sin which I've had in my life and want to be healed so that I no longer serve sin, but instead I live to righteousness (being obedient to God)
- I want to serve God, and I want to live in the truth
- I have a lot of joy in showing people that Jesus Christ is real
- I want to love Jesus. It seems to me like it's the reason for living
- I want my life to honour Jesus
- Jesus is worthy of all love, all praise, all glory
- I need Jesus
- I want to be found as a friend of Jesus
- I don't want to mislead anyone, so as things get clearer to me, if I notice mistakes or things that are ambiguous, I want "make improvements" to the document for the purpose of expressing as clearly as I can my present understanding of the Scripture

But God chose some to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through **sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.**

Jesus called us to sanctified (i.e. repent from sin, and live to God). We seek the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Interestingly, we don't seek our own glory, but Paul says that God chose us to be sanctified by the Spirit and belief in the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:14 - To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may **obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

We seek the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, not our own glory. We should aim not to speak on our own authority, but instead to speak the Truth from God:

John 7:18 - The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. (ESV)

I don't want to speak about things I am not confident in affirming, such as monergism because I haven't even scratched the surface of the doctrines surrounding that -it's beyond my study. But I have a childlike trusting, obedient faith in Jesus, which is what Jesus wants of us I think. Something that gives me confidence before God is that I have been brought into obedience to Jesus' commandments in word and deed. Not just intellectually knowledgeable, and I have confidence because I have confidence that Jesus is working in my life). Yes, I believe that we should desire to cooperate with God and do the word of God. We want to be obedient and believing. We trust God. God's faithfulness is greater than our own. That's how it works. God is our life. God works through us and His love is made perfect in us and we love with the same love that Jesus loved us with. Love comes from God. Christ's love is not vain philosophy.

I believe the Holy Spirit can absolutely take over as this evangelist puts it:

Amen youtube.com: The Holy Spirit took over my preaching in Las Vegas and left me in awe and trembling

I Corinthians 3:9 - For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. (ESV)

For sure, I just want to speak the truth from God, and I want to be sanctified by the Truth, and I want to be corrected by the Truth:

Ephesians 4:15-19 - Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. (ESV)

Seeking God in truth and not seeking glory from one another is a good place to start in coming to believe. I guess that seeking the glory that comes from the only God involves seeking to glorify God:

John 5:44 - How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

I believe we should have a noticeable change of heart and behaviour as a result of trusting obedient faith in Jesus:

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

We are healed by His wounds - a lot of Christians try to suppress the "We are healed" bit. We should also notice that healing comes with stopping sinning. Jesus bore our sins in His body on the tree so that we might forsake sin, stop obeying it, and live righteous lives in holiness and doing good out of obedience to God:

I Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

I don't think James contradicts Paul because I think faith alone is sufficient but that working faith is fine "You'll know them by their fruits.". Also it's God, not us, who justifies:

Matthew 7:15-20 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (ESV)

But I think that when we obey Jesus it's Jesus working.

Jesus worked:

John 5:17 - But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. (ESV)

John 19:30 - When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, It is finished, and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (ESV)

Jesus is still working through us:

Philippians 2:13 - for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Way Maker - Paul McClure | Moment @time: 4 min 12 sec

So when we obey Jesus' words and commandments, Jesus works in us:

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

When we walk in trusting, believing, obedient faith, God works in us and to deliver us and makes our paths straight for us:

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jude 1:21 - keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

So we are saved by obeying Jesus:

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

Quote from John Piper Jesus has done everything necessary: He was loved and foreknown and chosen, He appeared at the end of the times, He was crucified for sins, He was raised from the dead, He was glorified at the Father's right hand, and now He is sent by his Spirit into this world and he is doing his purposes to gather his people and through him you have become believers in God.

You've been ransomed from a futile way of life by an infinitely valuable price: namely, the blood of Jesus.

The command to lead your life in fear rises with the value of the ransom paid to rescue you from the sin that some people try to fund with the ransom.

He was born to die and he died to rescue you from this afternoon's sinning. And tomorrow's, as well as all the ones in the past.

We should not treat that ransom with contempt.

But I feel like a lot of people have a problem with salvation by obedience, but it's totally Scriptural. Noah and the Israelites through the Red Sea and the Apostle Thomas after following Jesus around for ages and finally arrived at belief. And I think this is the correct teaching.

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing through the word of Christ.** (ESV)

Faith comes from hearing Jesus' words and we can hear a commandment of Jesus such as 'love your enemies' and that faith can come from that, and it's Jesus working through them when they hear Jesus' words and obey them, and I think a person can be saved this way if they continue in Jesus' word.

Luke 6:35 - But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. (ESV)

A person is justified when God justifies the person, not just because a person says they are justified. So I think God's the justifier of a person's faith and that both obedience and belief are parts of faith, and like Abraham we should keep the faith until and beyond when we receive personal assurance of justification from God.

Interlinear Bible Romans 3:28

1 3049 [e] 1063 [e] 1344 [e] 4102 [e]
 2 logizometha gar dikaiousthai pistei
 3
 4 We reckon therefore to be justified by faith
 5 V-PIM/P-1P Conj V-PNM/P N-DFS
 6
 7 444 [e] 5565 [e] 2041 [e] 3551 [e]
 8 anthrōpon chōris ergōn nomou
 9 , .
 10 a man apart from works of the Law
 11 N-AMS Prep N-GNP N-GMS

But works of the law is different from works:

Romans 3:28 - For we maintain that a man is justified by faith (G4102 pistis) apart from works of the Law. (NASB)

1 : 4102 pistis pis'-tis
 2
 3 from 3982; persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious
 4 truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially
 5 reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such
 6 profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth
 7 itself:--assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.
 8 see GREEK for 3982

It's God who tests the faith, and God who justifies:

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

III John 1:11-12 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. (ESV)

And I do not believe the following verse necessarily is merely talking about justification but also talking about being saved from falsehood, corruption, demons, sin in our bodies and from the wrath of God, and also my definition of faith includes obedience:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved (sesōsmenoi) through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

sesōsmenoi (saved) https://biblehub.com/greek/seso_smenoi_4982.htm

We don't justify ourselves. The lawyer here was desiring to justify himself. God is the justifier. Jesus explains that the one who proved to be a neighbour is the one who showed compassion for and took care of the helpless person, taking care of them with mercy:

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half

dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, **he had compassion**. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, *proved to be a neighbor* to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, **You go, and do likewise.** (ESV)

See: ??

Polycarp 2:1 Wherefore gird up your loins and serve God in fear and truth, forsaking the vain and empty talking and the error of the many, for that ye have believed on Him that raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and gave unto him glory and a throne on His right hand; unto whom all things were made subject that are in heaven and that are on the earth; to whom every creature that hath breath doeth service; who cometh as judge of quick and dead; **whose blood God will require of them that are disobedient unto Him.**

17.0.2 Draw near to God

Because of what Jesus has done, we can draw near to God's throne of grace with a true heart (purified by faith in Jesus, single-mindedly trusting God's Word) in full assurance of faith. Forsake sin, turn away from idols, repent and have faith in Jesus. Trust his Words, works, believe He died for our sins and God raised Him from the dead and trust in Him. Trust that He will reward you for seeking Him out in this way because His Word says so.

Hebrews 7:19-20 - On the one hand, a **former commandment** is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the **law made nothing perfect**); but *on the other hand, a better hope* is introduced, **through which we draw near to God.** (ESV)

II John 1:4-6 - I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:22 - let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

17.0.3 Be perfected and made complete in love and holiness. Jesus is the Way

Know Jesus, be sanctified, obeying Jesus.

Hebrews 10:1 - For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. (ESV)

I John 2:3 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.
(ESV)

So long as we are being sanctified (through obedience to the Truth for a sincere love of our family in Christ), we are or will be perfected in love:

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
(ESV)

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-19 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. (ESV)

Jesus was made perfect and become the source of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him. What does being made perfect mean here? He completed the works which Father God gave Him to do and suffered in the flesh and was made alive in the spirit:

Hebrews 7:28 - For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

We must walk not as enemies of the cross of Christ, but walk in godliness, behaviour that is in accordance with true knowledge about God:

Titus 1:1-3 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and **their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life**, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; (ESV)

I John 2:3 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.
(ESV)

Philippians 3:8-19 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with **minds set on earthly things**. (ESV)

"He learned from the things He obediently suffered" makes more sense to me. Is that a plausible translation?:

Hebrews 5:8 - though being a Son He learned from the things He suffered - obedience (Interlinear)

1	2539	1510	5207	3129	575	3739	3958	3588	5218
2	kaiper	ōn	Huios	emathen	aph'	hōn	epathen	tēn	hypakoēn
3	T	,		,		,		,	
4	though	being	a	Son	He	learned	from	the	things
5	Conj	V-PPA-NMS	N-NMS	V-AIA-3S	Prep	RelPro-GNP	V-AIA-3S	Art-AFS	N-AFS

Hebrews 5:7-10 - In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

James 3:2 - For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Jesus was "perfected" (think of what that word is being used to mean), being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. We should definitely have the mindset of having suffered in the flesh and ceased from sinning. Be repentant, be spiritually minded, be trying to do the will of God, be prepared to stand before God:

I Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, (ESV)

I Peter 4:1-5 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; **but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.** (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:16 - From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. (ESV)

17.1 Walking in trusting faith in Jesus

I honestly don't know everything and I don't have all the answers. But I think God is sanctifying me through faith. As we hold our faith, willing to do God's will, and trusting Him, we are sanctified - cleaned, washed, and things will become clearer. His spirit sanctifies us. His word sanctifies us. We are sanctified as we hold our faith in Him.

Just keep trusting in, trusting Jesus, believing and obeying and treasuring from the heart and I think things will become clearer. That's what I'm doing.

We trust Jesus (Yeshua), so we accept and treasure His words, so we trust in Him and obey Him out of trust and He is our strength, and song and Yahweh becomes our salvation. In trusting Jesus (Yeshua) we trust Jehovah (Yahweh) who has sent Jesus (Yeshua). It's Jesus Christ who saves us. It's Yahweh who saves us:

Isaiah 12:1-3 - You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD (H3068 Yvhv), for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust (H982 batach), and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD (H3068 Yvhv) is my strength (H5797 oz) and my song (H2176 zimrath), and he has become my salvation (H3444 yeshuah). With joy (H8342 sason) you will draw water (H4325 mayim) from the wells of salvation. (ESV)

John 7:37-39 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts (G1372 dipsaó), let him come to me and drink (G4095 pinó). Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuó) in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)

John 7:38 - The [one] believing in Me as has said the Scripture Rivers out of the belly of him will flow of water living (Interlinear)

God is our #1 treasure. Family in Christ is also treasure - we love one another as ourselves as commanded. We must treasure family in Christ. Also God wants all people to be saved. We are called to agape treasure all people, even our enemies. We want them to be saved too:

Leviticus 19:9-18 - When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

Anyway, we should just keep trusting the Lord and maintain a good conscience before God, follow Him faithfully, trust Him and treasure his words and commandments. Love as he loved, walk as he walked. Like Peter on the water, we keep our eyes on Jesus - the eyes of our heart, and God takes care of us:

Matthew 14:28-33 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, Lord, save me. Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, Truly you are the Son of God. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (ESV)

The other thing is, we should put out faith on the Truth in the Bible because dreams and visions are very often lying:

Ezekiel 13:6 - They have seen false visions and lying divinations. They say, Declares the LORD, when the LORD has not sent them, and yet they expect him to fulfill their word. (ESV)

I get lied to in dreams and visions from the devil very often, even through other people. This is why it helps to do a good Bible study. So I trust what God has spoken through Bible:

Ephesians 4:11-14 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. (ESV)

Spiritual dreams and visions happen, and God can speak to us through a dream, but the devil can also lie to us through a dream, so don't trust all your dreams. Most of the dreams I get I don't believe. So this is one reason why we should maintain a good conscience with God, because we don't want to be misled by demons:

I John 3:22-23 - and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Bob Fitts- Jesus Christ Is Lord {Medley} {Hosanna! Music} @time: 5 min 43 sec

Song youtube.com: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD {Lyrics} | New Wine {@officialnewwine}

17.1.1 To be "under the law" is to "rely" on your own perfect obedience to the law for justification, life and salvation

It's *relying* on the works of the law which puts a person under a curse. That doesn't mean we forsake the law. We just don't *rely* on its works for our justification, life and salvation:

Galatians 3:10 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. (ESV)

The curse of the law (which is the condemnation which arises from imperfect law compliance) is no longer a problem for us by having faith in Jesus, Jesus has taken that curse and paid for it with His blood:

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

- What does it mean to be under the law? - Ask the Pastor

To be "under the law" is to "rely" on [your own perfect obedience to] the law for justification, life and salvation.

To be "under the law" is to be condemned in Adam, rather than justified in Christ.

All unbelievers, both Jews and Gentiles, are "under the law," but all believers in both Testaments are "under grace" (Rom 6:14) in Christ, who came to "redeem those who were under the law" (Gal 4:5).

True believers keep the good law of God in faith, under grace, as an expression of love to God and others because of so great a salvation.

They don't rely on the law to save them, but neither do they reject its authority or goodness.

Though they can never keep the law perfectly, they try to follow the law as an expression of faith in God and love to Him.

Either way, it's still important to accept Jesus when presented with Jesus.

To be regarded as a child of Abraham, a person must fall into one of 2 categories:

- walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised, I believe with respect to having faith in Jesus Christ, but I also this likely counts to adherents of the law of God (i.e. the circumcised) who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that Abraham had before he was circumcised
 - **John 8:39** - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, **If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did**, (ESV)
- faith in Jesus Christ:
 - **Galatians 3:7-9** - Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham**, saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed. So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (ESV)

We have believe Jesus and to trust Jesus. When Jesus says He is the Son of God, we must believe it because we trust Him. Likewise when He commands us to repent from sinning we should agree with Jesus and be obedient:

John 16:8-9 - And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: **concerning sin, because they do not believe in me**; (ESV)

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

I believe this also counts to those who are of the "real/spiritual circumcision". After being born-again of the Spirit, it seems natural to want to obey and trust God the way Abraham did and walk in works of faith like Abraham:

Philippians 3:3 - For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— (ESV)

Colossians 2:11-12 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (ESV)

17.1.2 I affirm we are free in Christ Jesus, enslaved to God, and have victory over death

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now having been freed from sin and **enslaved to God**, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

So this morning <2024-05-12 Sun> I got a picture of John Piper in my mind with this Bible verse, and so I googled it and found this tweet a few days ago. Also, this morning I had two other dreams:

Awesome:

- <https://twitter.com/JohnPiper/status/1784160580569375072>

1 John Piper

2 @JohnPiper

3 God gives us the victory over death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:57-58 - But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

1 No labor in vain in the Lord.

2 10:00 PM · Apr 27, 2024

AMEN!!

Also, it looks like John Piper has another talk on this:

- youtube.com: The Jerusalem Above Is Free: Galatians 4:21-31, Part 5

Galatians 4:22-23 - For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. (ESV)

Galatians 4:30-31 - But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

In Christ Jesus there is freedom from things which were bad for us, including selfishness, condemnation, slavery to sin and death, and feeling like we're not good enough for God. There is freedom from anything that tries to hinder us from obeying God in truth:

I Peter 2:16 - Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. (ESV)

God accepts those who serve Christ. We come under Jesus' banner, and His righteousness, but we still follow after Him and serve Him in word and deed:

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

We are freed from, for example, making the worries of the world our first thought in the day such as thinking always in terms of "will I have enough money, for example", to instead, with the Holy Spirit in us, thinking correctly, having joy in being able to live out the great commandments in actuality, to be able to love God, I believe with our **whole** heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbour as ourselves, and as we abide in Jesus Christ, focused on Jesus as our Pearl of Great Price, obeying God in word and deed, passing-forward Christ's love to others, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin:

II Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (ESV)

Galatians 5:1-6 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

We have been ransomed from our futile ways, so that our ways may change, and we love God because He loved us first. Therefore, be holy! Obey God:

I Peter 1:16-22 - since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

We are redeemed from lawless behaviour, God purifies us with the blood of Jesus and we do good deeds out of a corrected will to now do good deeds instead of lawless deeds because Jesus loved us and gave us Himself:

Titus 2:14 - who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (NASB)

Proverbs 12:12 - Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. (ESV)

Jesus tasted death for us. Since we are saved from death, and from the law of sin and death, we walk by the Spirit now and try to imitate Christ, empowered with His Spirit to help us do that:

Hebrews 2:9 - But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (ESV)

Romans 8:12-13 - So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

II Corinthians 3:9 - For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. (ESV)

The reason we do our good deeds is not as if we are trying to earn our acceptance from God all over again, but walking by the Spirit which we have received, we do them out of Christ-defined love because we want to pass forward the love of God:

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Believing in Jesus and obeying Jesus go hand in hand. Believing in Jesus, obeying Jesus, trusting in Jesus, His words and promises, are all in the heart and not the head. I'm going to keep trying to do all of those things, and not make any sweeping statements about free will:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (pisteuōn): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.** As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus.** We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

Jesus' commandments are all about selfless love. We must abide in Jesus' teaching and believe. It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ. Confessing the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh, and walking according to Jesus' commandments go hand in hand:

II John 1:6-9 - And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

17.2 God justifies even ungodly people who have faith in Jesus

We have faith in God by having faith in Jesus and by having faith in Jesus we may be justified even though we are ungodly.

God justifies who has faith in Jesus.

<https://www.samstorms.org/all-articles/post/are-we-justified-by-faith-or-by-works-yes---james-214>
There is a way of doing the law that is by faith:

Romans 2:13 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers (4163. poiétés) of the law who will be justified. (ESV)

I'm sure that James would be referring to what Paul refers to in Romans 4:11-12:

James 2:24 - You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. (ESV)

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

Romans 4:11-12 - He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him **the father of all who believe without being circumcised**, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him **the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised**. (ESV)

Firstly, God owns everything. Whatever we give God, he already owned. Neither do we give God wages as if we were the previous owner of our gift. And we don't give God advice:

Romans 11:34-36 - For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or **who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (ESV)

We just depend on and trust and hope on God to justify us, to commend us, to give us mercy, and we simply follow Jesus and have peace with God because we believe in Jesus, and in believing and obeying Jesus we have the hope of being justified by faith in Jesus:

Romans 9:16 - So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:1-2 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. (ESV)

John Piper - "Faith is the baking our **hope on the mercy of God.**"

We were saved in hopeful faith:

Romans 8:23-25 - And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (ESV)

But God is just to take into consideration our work:

Hebrews 6:10-12 - For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (ESV)

Matthew 10:10 - no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. (ESV)

My best understanding of **Romans 4:4** is: "The person who works receives wages, but **the wages are not a gift**, but the person does receive reward which is due for his work." - But that's not good enough. We need to accept the gift of salvation from God. So working is not good enough, we must submit to the righteousness of God and accept the gift for forgiveness because we don't deserve the gift of Salvation what God has given us as a gift, by the shedding of Jesus Christ's blood.

Romans 4:4 - Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.

However, the work we produce doesn't **justify us** before God (it doesn't clear us from being guilty of sin before God). We still need to have faith on God to justify us even though we are ungodly, due to the atonement for our sin by Christ's blood.

We must have faith in Jesus to be justified by faith. God justifies the person who trusts in Jesus and since we trust Jesus we should be doers of Christ's law (which is not outside the law of God, so we are doers of the law), and God justifies the person with the blood of Jesus. If we're trusting in Jesus then we're trusting in God who justifies the ungodly. We're not trusting in God to **justify** our ungodliness, but to **justify** us as we keep our faith in Jesus:

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified**. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

God justifies the person who has faith in Jesus:

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.** (ESV)

Before accepting God's forgiveness yourself, submitting to the righteousness of God, believing that you were in need of God's forgiveness and accepting that Jesus' blood has atoned for our sin and placing our faith in Jesus so that God may justify us, no good work of ours could atone for our sin:

Isaiah 64:6 - We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (ESV)

The "Our Father" prayer applies to those who are actually children of God:

Matthew 6:8-15 - Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and **forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For **if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.** (ESV)

If a son of Abraham repents from sin and forgives (return stolen goods) they can have salvation:

Luke 19:1-10 - He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today. So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, **Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.** And Jesus said to him, Today **salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (ESV)

We can be sons of Abraham through faith in Jesus. So if we believe in Jesus, repent and forgive, we can have salvation:

Galatians 3:6-9 - just as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham,** saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed. So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (ESV)

We ultimately need God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus, and so we need to come to realise our spiritual bankruptcy before God and cry out to Him to forgive us as we desire to turn a new leaf and walk in the truth, and God can save us.

Self-righteousness has no place in asking God to be forgiven and justified by faith in Jesus. The atonement made by God with Jesus' blood is what has purchased God to be the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. God does the justification. We do the "having faith in Jesus". God does the grafting (the vineyard work):

Romans 4:5-7 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: The Hands of Jesus | Billy Graham Classic @time: 11 min 43 sec

We must be able to accept that our gifts which we give to God will never be good enough without the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, and we need to receive the gift of Salvation which God has offered us. God gives that justification and grants repentance to life for those put their faith in Jesus. We need a penitently obedient heart,. We just put our faith in Jesus and continue in faith in Jesus.

I John 1:9 - If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

For the person who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness:

Mark 11:25 - And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (ESV)

I'm **trusting God** wholeheartedly to be justified because of Christ's finished work on the cross, and placing my faith in Jesus (obedient, trusting, believing faith in Jesus) and hoping for God's justification.

However, who am I to restrict God? God may justify and save whom He will:

Acts 2:21 - And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (ESV)

Romans 10:20 - Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me. (ESV)

Romans 2:13 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers (4163. poiétés) of the law who will be justified. (ESV)

There is justification by faith is for anyone who **trusts God** for the forgiveness of their sins through Jesus' finished work on the cross as they place their faith in Jesus and follow Jesus by belief and obedience. I don't deny that to other people. But we are **trusting God**, not trusting on the work alone without trusting/believing/obeying/loving God. What I mean is, God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. We believe and obey Jesus, loving one another as He loved us, but in the knowledge that God has loved us first by paying the price for our sin with Jesus' blood:

Romans 3:26 - It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

I'm unsure if the following applies for justification (it may be that it is meant in a different context), but in some sense, forgiving others is still required if someone wants God to forgive them:

Mark 11:25 - And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (ESV)

Matthew 6:12-15 - and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (ESV)

Nevertheless, I forgive everyone, and hold no grudges.

Forgive one another in Christ and be obedient, and hold no grudge for those in darkness, but try to be the light of the world to them, show them the love of God and the truth of God. Be obedient to Christ in everything that we are not outwitted by Satan:

II Corinthians 2:5-11 - Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are **obedient in everything**. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (ESV)

17.3 Obedient action including seeking God in faith (trusting God's words and seeking)

God's words are fulfilled in their time, which may be immediately! God's words are reliable!

Luke 1:20 - And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time. (ESV)

I believe that obedient action which includes seeking God is an important part of faith.

I believe obedience is intrinsic to faith, actually.

True faith is always obedient; faith is always prepared to obey more:

John 7:17- If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

Obedient action is not dead works, and I believe that obedient action is just working faith.

Being disobedient to Jesus means disbelieving in Jesus:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. apeitheó) the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

Romans 4:2 - For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

Paul doesn't deny that Abraham could have been justified by works, but he claims that Abraham doesn't have anything to boast about before God. AMEN!!

Because he offered nothing to God through his work other than what was asked of him.

Jesus was perfectly faithful to God by being obedient:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

Romans 9:15-16 - For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

AMEN!! But that doesn't mean human will or exertion cannot be utilised by God.

God rewards faith and may choose to reveal Himself after a while serving God in faith instead of immediately.

Matthew 25:19 - Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

Acts 20:35 - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, It is more **blessed to give** than to receive.

17.4 Obedience belongs in faith

- Firstly, obedience is a heart attitude, so a person can have obedient faith without any work.
 - **Psalms 119:34** - Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. (ESV)
 - For example, to keep the command to not work on the Sabbath is to obey but not to work! Thus this example shows that obedience to God doesn't strictly mean working. That's the only point I want to make. Of course, doing good works out of faith/obedience on the Sabbath as Jesus did is also still obedience. What is not done in faith is sin.
- Secondly, obedient action is nothing to boast about before God, because God commanded you to do it.
 - **Romans 4:2** - For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. (ESV)
- Thirdly, "working for God" is as step beyond obedient action.
 - Paul doesn't claim his full rights in the gospel (even rights shown by God's precepts in God's law) that He might receive reward from God for going beyond the call of His duty:
 - **I Corinthians 9:12,9:15-18** - If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. But **I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.** For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. (ESV)

In God's mercy He has shown us the Way to be reconciled with Him. He has given us Jesus, and we just need to have faith in Him. He has told us what to believe and what to do, and we can choose to be obedient in believing and acting or to not be obedient - to be disobedient.

Jesus is the author of our faith, so having faith is grace from God, and even if works are working with our faith, it's all by grace and we still can't boast before God because our faith and our works are all gifted to us from God.

We're supposed to do good works of faith by Jesus' power so that Jesus' name is glorified - and those works done in Jesus' power are entirely given by grace to us:

II Thessalonians 1:11-12 - To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every **work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, *according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (ESV)

For example, Noah's works of building the ark was given to Him by God. God even outlined every detail. Noah acted obediently to God's instruction.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the **founder and perfecter** of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Obedience belongs inside faith because

- God commanded it and complying is not really bringing anything to God which He hasn't told you to bring to Him.

- * So it's just acting in faith
- * If God commands you to build an ark, and you build it exactly as specified, is that considered dead works? No, it's just doing exactly what God said. It's faith.
- * If God commands you to wait 5 days before going into battle but you think 8 days would be better, thinking God needs the extra time so you can be more prepared so you wait 8 days then that is no longer faith because it's disobedience.
- * Abraham was commanded to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, and Abraham did offer Isaac out of faithful obedience.

· **Genesis 22:2** - He said, Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.

· **James 2:22** - You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;**

- * But if Abraham thought he could get even more rewards from God by trying the same thing again and putting Isaac on the altar again without God even commanding it, then that is like trying to justify yourself by doing dead works (i.e. deeds without faith).

- Choosing to obey God's commandments even when no-one is watching (aside from God) is having faith in God.

- * For example, not stealing from your employer.
- * Therefore, there is a way of abiding by God's commandments which is faith and not works.
- * To not steal is to love God and have faith in God.

- Seeking God in action belongs in faith because:

- When someone wills to do God's will, they come to know the truth

* **John 7:17** - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

- When someone has faith, they believe that God exists and that in seeking God, God rewards them:

* **Hebrews 11:6** - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Salvation is the gift, and faith implies an obedient heart. Works can be dead works when they're not done in faith. Faith is what justifies. But faith works. Faith requires obedience to God. Faithless works do not justify:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

With an obedient heart, a person will receive revelation as they hear the teaching of Jesus. A person must be at least willing to do His will - obedience is at the essence of faith:

John 7:17 - If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

Therefore, faith quickly progresses into good work, serving the living God:

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Those who's Father is God love Jesus, and will to do the will of God:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

Romans 7:20-22 - Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

But those who's father is the devil lie out of their own character - they mean to lie when they lie, and they will to do the devil's desires:

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV)

'Believing in rewards from God for seeking Him' belongs in faith, or it's not faith anymore, even in regards to justifying faith.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:24-26 - By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. **He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.**

We should pursue Jesus Christ similarly. God commanded it:

Mark 9:7 - And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, This is my beloved Son; listen to him.

Luke 9:35 - And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!

1 Timothy 1:15-17 - The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience **as an example** to those who were to believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

17.5 The type of work that is good - works done in faith

We are redeemed to be purified and to perform good works: Jesus picks us out and purifies us so we are set apart for His own possession who are zealous for good works. Jesus rescues us from the crooked generation:

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

But Jesus doesn't pull us out of the world entirely until later. Here on earth Jesus decouples us from unbelievers, and we become one spirit with Jesus, and we also unyoke ourselves from unbelievers and distance ourselves from unrepentant sinners who claim to be believers, and we are expected to clean ourselves up by obedience to the Truth with God's help, but we still live among sinners of the world until God makes an entirely new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells. So we can't expect God to remove all the sinners from the city in which we live, for example, but we are called to live for the Lord Jesus while we are here, and Jesus brings us together with other believers who forsake their sin and live for righteousness:

II Peter 3:10-14 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

We've been created in Christ Jesus for good works:

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

We're not being justified by our works - we've already been redeemed, but we do works out of love for Jesus, and out of ongoing faith, ongoing obedience:

Titus 3:8 - The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that **those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works**. These things are excellent and profitable for people. (ESV)

Talk by youtube.com: How Christianity Is Different From Every Religion

youtube.com: John Lennox: How do I choose which religion to follow? @time: 8 min 12 sec You've heard about my wife. Well, over fifty years ago, I saw this vision in Cambridge, so I decided I'd like to marry her. So I came to her one day and I had a little present wrapped up for her. It was a cookbook. So I said, "I'd like to marry you, Sally. Now the condition would be this: Let's look at page 147 - it's apple cake, and here are the laws for making apple cake. Thou shalt take some what's flour, thou shall take some what sugar, and there you are. Now, here's the way it's gonna be: If you keep these laws for the next forty years, I think about accepting you. If you don't, you can go back to your mother."

But, look why are you laughing? That is what many of you sitting here think about God. And you would never insult a fellow human being by basing a relationship on merit. You wouldn't. And so my marriage, it's been good, why? Because my wife is not cooking in order to gain my acceptance. She likes cooking because she's got it. And the wonderful thing about Christianity is precisely that. It's not religion in that sense, it's a relationship.

Christianity is a relationship, like a marriage:

- Acceptance comes at the beginning; Jesus gives us the benefit of the doubt. Just start serving Jesus in faith
 - We must still forgive and love our family in Christ. This isn't 'work', but it is obedience, and it is a required heart attitude

– **Romans 14:18** - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

- Salvation is based on Jesus' merit but also on our working-out of that free salvation gift with hope, faith, repentance and obedience

– **Philippians 1:6** - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

– **Philippians 2:12-16** - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

- We **must** have a response of love for Jesus

– **John 14:21** - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

– **John 16:27** - for the Father himself loves you, **because** you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (ESV)

- In whatever we do, we should be serving the Lord Jesus Christ

– **I Corinthians 10:31** - So, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.** (ESV)

– **Colossians 3:17** - And **whatever you do**, in word or deed, do **everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.** (ESV)

– **I Corinthians 16:14** - Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

– **Romans 12:9** - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (ESV)

The Holy Spirit still goes to those who obey Jesus:

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

I John 3:24 - **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

It's extremely important to have a response of love for Jesus, and to do the good works which we have been created in Christ Jesus to do, but Jesus also saves people who turn out to be unthankful:

Luke 17:11-19 - On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. When he saw them he said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And he said to him, Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

When we abide in Jesus by belief and obedience, we bear much fruit, but outside of Jesus, we can't actually do anything:

John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (ESV)

We don't want lazy, cowardly, disobedient faith:

Matthew 25:24-26 - He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him, You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? (ESV)

Luke 12:48 - But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. (ESV)

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Obedience is good:

Psalms 40:6-8 - Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: **I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.** (ESV)

'Working' for God is OK when it's done in faith:

James 2:22-23 - You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:9 - For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. (ESV)

Obedience is intrinsic to faith:

Hebrews 11:31 - By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

And after a time, the LORD visits and judges on deeds, and on words:

Revelation of John 3:2-3 - Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

Jesus judges on deeds and on words (possibly on the way you judge others, the same standard is measured back to you; also important is confessing Jesus Christ before others):

Matthew 12:35-37 - The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Matthew 25:19 - Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

Jeremiah 17:10 - I the LORD (**Yahweh**) search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds. (ESV)

1 3068 [e]

2 Yah·weh

3

4 Yahweh

5 N-proper-ms

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

Revelation of John 3:21 - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as **I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.** (ESV)

Matthew 25:21 - His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.

Firstly, obedient children are children who hear the word of God, believe and love God, and we should be holy in all our conduct if we call on the LORD God who judges impartially according to each one's deeds:

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Talk youtube.com: Ecclesiastes: fear God and obey His commandments- the only hope for a good life

We must follow the way righteousness, repenting from sin, and following Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is Lord:

II Peter 2:1-3 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

II Peter 2:20-22 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.

17.5.1 Since Jesus has made the way, we serve God with good works. We have received mercy. We should then be merciful:

I Peter 2:10 - Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Luke 6:36 - Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

17.5.2 Works must serve God, submitted to the righteousness that comes from God

We have to submit to God's righteousness, accepting that we are sinners, and accept God's forgiveness through the atonement that comes through Jesus, and be obedient to God through being obedient to Jesus.

Mark 2:17 - And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

Luke 5:32 - I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

Romans 10:3-4 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (G4100 **pisteuo** has faith in Jesus). (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-11 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of **his resurrection**, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (ESV)

17.6 Dead works: The type of work that's bad

What is wrong is trying to establish a righteousness of one's own apart from submitting to the righteousness of God - it's saying, "God, I think you should have this, or, God I think I'm righteous because I did this for you." rather than, "here is what you asked of me, LORD."

Work not done in faith:

Leviticus 10:1-2 - Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

I Samuel 15:22-23 - And Samuel said, Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

God didn't ask for the offering which Nadab and Abihu offered.

Ananias gave to God unfaithfully, in a manner similar to Cain.

Acts 4:32 - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

Acts 5:1-5 - But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to **the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God. When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. (ESV)

Cain was half-hearted with his offering to the LORD, as Ananias was:

Genesis 4:3-5 - In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. (ESV)

1 John 3:12 - We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. (ESV)

Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Dead works are works not done in service to God, but works done in service to God, He may accept.

17.6.1 Works of the law are dead works. God always desired us to serve Him with mercy

Hebrews 10:8 - When he said above, You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings (these are offered according to the law),

Hebrews addressed the same passage which Jesus addressed:

Matthew 12:3-8 - He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And **if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless.** For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.

17.7 Working faith

Works and faith can't really exist apart from one another because *even to believe in Jesus is a work* - a work done in Christ, that is:

John 6:27 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. (ESV)

This faith/trust/belief towards Jesus listens to Jesus' voice. So if a person is rejecting Jesus' teachings then they need to repent and trust Jesus' words. If the belief is true then we'll continue believing Jesus with all the other things He said:

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. **Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.** (ESV)

John 10:16 - And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

We need to believe and **then** call on Jesus to save us, (usually out of desperation). This is another act of obedience to the Gospel. We don't call on a law to save us; we call on Jesus to save us. That looks like beating hand on chest, wanting to turn from sin and begging God to save us:

Romans 10:12-14 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.** But how are they to **call on him** in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (ESV)

Ironically, I feel like this word *hypakouō* which means to "fully hearken" (it's an intensification of the verb "to listen" with connotations of paying attention and responding to obey) may have been "demoted" in meaning by many people to not at all mean "fully hearken to / become obedient to the command":

Romans 10:16 - But they have not all obeyed (G5219. *hypakouō* - *I listen, hearken to, obey, answer*) the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed (G4100 *pisteuō*) what he has heard from us? (ESV)

Hypakouō really means to be fully compliant to:

1	5219	/hypakouō ("obey")	is acting under the authority of the one speaking, i.e. really listening t		
2					
3	[5219 (<i>hypakouō</i>) is an "intensification" of the simple verb "to listen" (191 /akoúō, "hear").]				
1	235	3756	3956	5219	3588
2	All'	ou	pantes	hypēkousan	tō
3	,			.	,
4	But	not	all	heeded	the
5	Conj	Adv	Adj-NMP	V-AIA-3P	Art-DNS
6					N-DNS
7	2962	5101	4100	3588	189
8	Kyrie	tis	episteusen	tē	akoē
9	K	,			hēmōn
10	Lord	who	has believed	the	report of us
11	N-VMS	IPro-NMS	V-AIA-3S	Art-DFS	N-DFS
					PPro-G1P

So we have to believe on Him (who He is), and call on Him to save us - and this is an act of obedience to His command to trust in Him and call on Him, so we come to trust and obey Him:

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

If we're "of the Truth" then we will hear His words and be corrected by His teaching, and not disregard all His words, but believe them as we hear them:

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

The obedience continues:

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is **the work of God**, that **you believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him whom he has sent.**

James 2:26 - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (KJV)

Justifying obedience can exist without work. It says, "Have mercy on me a sinner... Please give me another chance to do Your will, LORD":

Luke 18:10-14 - Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but **beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner!** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

To be justified by working faith, a person must have the faith of Abraham. By faith Abraham obeyed. So the faith has the fruit of walking in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

So what Jesus is saying is quite similar, I think. We must have the faith of Abraham, but in regards to following Jesus. That being said, around when I was born-again of the spirit, I had only exercised very simple faith - believing God exists, Jesus exists, and exercising faithfulness and obedience to Jesus, believing God sees in secret, and after being like that, struggling with sin, I called out to God for help, and He made me born-again of the Spirit. It was a **total gift and a rescue:**

I Peter 1:23 - since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (ESV)

youtube.com: Hope and the Fruit of Love @time: 2 min 43 sec New Birth by the word of God. So you got the act of God in causing us to be born again and you've got the active man in obedience to that truth, purifying his heart.

However, faith continues. We should repent from sin and be corrected by the word and Sanctified in the Word of God and carry out the good works which God lines up for us which He had planned for us. And faith continues, and we seek to come after Jesus. A similar situation happened to me like the situation of when Abraham put Isaac on the Altar, and like Abraham I had to give up something I really wanted and it meant obeying Jesus, exercising trusting faith and obedience to Jesus, forgiving and becoming a scapegoat. So I still say that believers who have been born of promise, born of the Spirit, should continue in the faith of Abraham. Obedience leads to reward, commendation, being a friend of God. But to be a disciple of Jesus we should count the cost, because it can be very difficult:

Luke 9:23-24 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

youtube.com: Hope and the Fruit of Love @time: 2 min 0 sec Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren - there's there's the pillar - therefore, fervently love one another.

So, the first pillar is Soul purifying obedience to the truth. Do we all see that? Since you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth, love.

If you do this you can love. If you don't do this, love falls. If you do this, love stands. So there's pillar number one.

Since there is a soul purifying obedience to the truth, you can love each other.

We're called not merely to believe certain facts about God, but to trust God, and love God and serve God. Even the demons believe God is one and they shudder. The faithful believe God and love God (a totally different response). Love is obedience to God, and includes accepting and having faith in the one who God sent, Jesus.

James 2:19 - You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Believing Father God Jehovah, loving Him, obeying His commandments, loving and obeying Jesus Christ His son, all must be true together, even to have a sound definition of what love is:

I John 5:1-3 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when **we love God and obey his commandments**. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that **we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome**.

The command to believe is a command to obedience, the obedience of faith. The command to obedience is to Jesus Christ who has fulfilled the law. It's still obedience to law but Jesus is our Master, not the old written code, so it's obedience to Jesus primarily. In other words, it's law-abiding obedience, but you can't obey the law and disobey Jesus at the same time. We're under the commandment of Christ.

While the law of God revives the soul while we are actually meditating on it and doing it, the law doesn't 'save' to perfection - it doesn't purify the heart. The obedience we have in the heart which saves is trust in Jesus Christ Himself where we become trusting, believing and obedient to Jesus, and as we hold fast to His gospel, Jesus brings us to God. God purifies our heart as we hold faith in Jesus:

Hebrews 7:19-20 - On the one hand, a **former commandment** is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the **law made nothing perfect**); but *on the other hand, a better hope* is introduced, **through which we draw near to God**. (ESV)

II John 1:4-6 - I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love, that we walk according to his commandments**; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

I Peter 3:18-20 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that he might bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **because they formerly did not obey**, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, **were brought safely through water**. (ESV)

The faith we have in Jesus is based on better hope and better promises and because the Mosaic Law is eclipsed by faith as Abraham received the promise before the law was given through Moses, even Abraham was obedient to God before the Mosaic Law was given. So to relegate obedience to being merely a Mosaic Law thing is incorrect. But we obey Jesus:

Galatians 3:24-27 - So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But **now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** (ESV)

But the precepts to agape (value, treasure) God, and one's neighbour and faith and obedience to God have been around since the very beginning. We don't say that obedience is only to the Mosaic law - it's not - we can trust God, believe and obey God's voice directly as Abraham did. We trust Jesus. A disobedient faith is not faith at all but in coming to trust in Jesus Christ, God's Son, we have become obedient to God through faith.

But we are obedient slaves now to righteousness, slaves of God, as slaves of Christ:

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient **from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Faith doesn't exist without obedience. Obedience doesn't exist without faith. The obedient will love Jesus, obeying Jesus, having faith in Jesus:

James 2:18 - But someone will say, You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

It's wrong to equate Mosaic law with obedience. We were called to obedience before the Mosaic law was even given:

Romans 1:1-7 - Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the **gospel of God**, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy **Scriptures**, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the **obedience of faith for the sake of his name** among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

And justification is a matter of obedience of faith (in the heart) for the sake of his name. So we become obedient at the same time as we truly believe:

Romans 10:10 - For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

Ezekiel 36:24-27 - I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (ESV)

It makes sense that the basis for continued obedience is trust. But I think the real problem with a lot of theology these days is that people think that obedience means "having produced work".

Romans 6:17-18 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

But really the problem is dead work or doing the devil's will. And we are brought into obedience to God through faith in Jesus, through obedience to Jesus:

II Timothy 2:24-26 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him **to do his will**. (ESV)

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:15 - If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (ESV)

A person can be obedient even before they're given an instruction - like someone waiting for an instruction, after having a heart which is now obedient. Willing to do God's will - and that is not self-seeking.

John 7:17-18 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. (ESV)

John 5:39-40 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are **unwilling** to come to Me so that you may have life. (NASB)

I think that coming to trust in Jesus is a free gift to us. It's a really low barrier of entry for us to begin doing the will of God. When we place our faith in Jesus we have become obedient to the heart, but we are supposed to go on becoming obedient in the heart to the standard of teaching we are committed to which comes from Jesus.

Romans 6:17-18 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

Obeying the gospel and having faith in Jesus comes from hearing Jesus' words (his teachings), even from reading it as described in the Old Testament (Romans 1:1-2). Sharing the gospel is speak to people what Jesus has spoken and allowing them to trust Jesus' words, and **in trusting Jesus' words we trust in Jesus**:

Romans 10:14-17 - But how are they to **call on him** in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How **beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!** But **they have not all obeyed the gospel**. For Isaiah says, Lord, **who has believed what he has heard from us?** So **faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.** (ESV)

God's commandment is to bring about the obedience of faith (having faith is in God and through Jesus Christ is being obedient to God):

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith** — (ESV)

We go from performing 'dead works' to 'faithful works'.

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Matthew 25:21 - His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.

We stop doing dead works to serve the living God, which I believe is obedience, which is really similar to work but it's obeying. Obedience gives glory to God. God saves a person, they're converted, and come into God's Kingdom and the angels rejoice.

Luke 15:10 - Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

Obeying Jesus' commandments are not 'dead works'.

Exodus 20:12-17 - Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Jesus said:

Mark 10:19 - You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. (ESV)

Obeying God by following the 10 commandments properly, in truth, is not performing 'dead works'. The Holy Spirit cleanses our hearts by faith:

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them **the Holy Spirit** just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Service to God is obeying God through Christ's commandments. It's being a bond-servant of Christ.

Also, the following means that having faith in Jesus is tightly coupled to doing the works that Jesus did - to acting like Jesus - to obeying His commandments.

John 14:12 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and **greater works than these will he do**, because I am going to the Father.

Whoever has faith in Jesus, the works that Jesus does, that person will do. *Pisteuo* (*pisteuōn*) = faith.

John 14:12 - Truly (G281 *amen*), truly (G281 *amen*), I say (G3004 *lego*) to you, he who believes (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Me, the works (G2041 *ergon*) that I do (G4160 *poieo*), he will do (G4160 *poieo*) also (G2548 *kakeinos*); and greater (G3173 *megas*) works than these (G3778 *houtos*) he will do (G4160 *poieo*); because (G3754 *hoti*) I go (G4198 *poreuomai*) to the Father (G3962 *pater*). (NASB)

1 : 4100 pisteuo pist-yoo'-o
2
3 from 4102; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or
4 thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's
5 spiritual well-being to Christ):--believe(-r), commit (to trust), put
6 in trust with.
7 see GREEK for 4102

If someone trusts their Lord then they do what their Lord does and has commanded.

17.7.1 Faith in Jesus Himself

Luke 7:6-9 - And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it. When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. (ESV)

Luke 8:43-48 - And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. And Jesus said, Who was it that touched me? When all denied it, Peter said, Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you! But Jesus said, Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me. And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace. (ESV)

17.7.2 Faith is faithful, humble, and enduring - it's active and enduring faithfulness to God in humility

Psalms 31:23 - Love the LORD, all you his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride. (ESV)

17.7.3 Jesus's Lordship is not merely His authority over us, but us yielding our lives to Jesus - us wanting to do His will, and us wanting to obey Him

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

Colossians 2:5-6 - For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, (ESV)

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

I Peter 1:2-3 - according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to

you. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (ESV)

Even the demons are subject to the authority of Jesus Christ, but they certainly don't have a response of love for God.

John 6:70 - Jesus answered them, Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil. (ESV)

Even Judas was subject to the authority of Jesus Christ:

John 13:27 - Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, What you are going to do, do quickly. (ESV)

Luke 10:19 - Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. (ESV)

Love for God in love for Jesus is an important part of our faith. God loves us because we love Jesus obeying His commandments even to trust in Him and believe the facts about Him, believing He came from God:

John 16:26-27 - In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (ESV)

Judas Iscariot repented after betraying Jesus and witnessing Jesus' crucifixion. God knows the outcome of Judas Iscariot. It's not a pleasant outcome:

Mark 14:21 - For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born. (ESV)

I think we can say that Jesus gave His all, even to Judas. Jesus really tried to get Judas to trust Him and yield his life to Him in advance of witnessing His crucifixion:

biblehub.com 27-3.htm: Matthew 27:3 Interlinear:

1	5119	3708	2455	3588	3860	846	3754
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3	T	,		*	,		
4	Then	having seen	Judas	the [one]	having delivered up	Him	that
5	Adv	V-APA-NMS	N-NMS	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS		PPro-AM3S Conj
6							
7	2632		3338		4762	3588	5144
8	katekrithē		metamelētheis		estrep sen	ta	triakonta
9	,	,	,				
10	He	was condemned	having regretted	[it]	he returned	the	thirty
11	V-AIP-3S		V-APP-NMS		V-AIA-3S	Art-ANP	Adj-ANP
12							
13	694		3588	749	2532	4245	
14	argyria		tois	archiereus in	kai	presbyterois	
15					,		
16	pieces	of silver	to the	chief priests	and	elders	
17	N-ANP		Art-DMP	N-DMP	Conj	Adj-DMP	

We serve our earthly masters/lords sincerely.

Colossians 3:22-24 - Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but **with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord**. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (ESV)

youtube.com: Slavery and Christ's Supreme Lordship: How to Live Under Human Authority {@desiring}

So does God Almighty like it when people say, "You're my God, you're my protector, you're my friend, nobody can touch me when I have my arm around this God." But you run away from him and He will growl and if you keep running, you're dead forever.

youtube.com: Slavery and Christ's Supreme Lordship: How to Live Under Human Authority {@desiring}

So sometimes people say, well the fear of God it's just reverence (it's not negative), not being, "You shouldn't be afraid of God." Baloney! **Of course** you should be afraid of God... **if** you are running away from God. The Bible doesn't play games - He's is God. He means for you to hug his neck and fight for you with all his omnipotence. That's what He means to happen. If you run, he's He's growling, and He'll growl after you for 30, 40, 50 years and then it will be too late to turn, so you you don't have to dilute the meaning of the fear of God in order to make it positive. You just have to make the distinction between **if I'm running toward him** do I need to be afraid? or **if I'm running away from him** do I need to be afraid? - That's not rocket science.

We should have a good work ethic when working for our earthly masters, particularly if their master is the Lord Jesus. Jesus is ultimately our only Lord and Master. We work ethically because Jesus commanded it. But we are subject to a higher law, the law of God, and that means obedience to Jesus:

youtube.com: Slavery and Christ's Supreme Lordship: How to Live Under Human Authority {@desiring}

You think I'm [merely] obeying you, but it's not what you think, Mr 'lord'. You don't have any '*final*' authority over me. I do not do anything simply because you say I should do it - don't misread that - **simply**. I don't do anything **simply** because you say I should do it. [But] I have a Lord who is **infinitely stronger** than you, infinitely *wiser* than you, infinitely more **authoritative** than you, infinitely more *satisfying* than you in my life. If you ask me to do anything contrary to his will it's not going to happen.

I found the above sermon to be really clarifying. But I'd just make the point that I believe the inheritance is a share in the inheritance but I'm pretty sure I wont be hearing "what's mine is yours". It all belongs to Jesus and if He lets me share even a tiny bit of that then that's OK but it all belongs to Jesus. Jesus is always the King of the Kingdom.

Daniel 7:13-14 - I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (ESV)

Daniel 7:27 - And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them. (ESV)

Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him**. (ESV)

17.7.4 Lordship salvation and free grace - an apparent paradox

Faith and obedience overlap, and God wants us to have faith in Him. Faith is trust. Obedience is a desire to do what God wants us to do, and they work together. Because God wants us to trust Him and trust His words and

trust in Him and trust in his saving power, when we see what He wants us to do, and we desire to do it, we have obedience. God gives us obedience when He gives us a new heart.

One thing to clarify the way I am using the word obedience. I do not mean it as "works".

Where one might say obedience (verb) is a result of faith (verb), I would say, faith (verb) is obedient (adjective) because faith is commanded. Anything we do willfully to the commandment of God is obedient to His commandment. If we are having faith then we are being obedient with regard to this commandment of God to have faith in Him.

Paul the Apostle said, faith, hope and love all abide but the greatest is love. They are all attitudes of the heart. We're also commanded to love God. If we willfully love God from the heart with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, then we are obedient to this commandment. Obedience covers faith, and love. I can find commandments for both faith and love. We're also commanded to have joy in our obedience to God. Obedience covers a whole lot of stuff.

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

I believe we must continue striving in faith and obedience to Christ, even after we have been born-again. I believe it's **necessary even as a part of salvation**, as salvation is through sanctification by the spirit and belief in the truth, and because we grow in faith and obedience. God teaches us to trust in Him more. And we strive to take captive every thought for obedience to Christ. This is what sanctification is like. Complete salvation also involves sanctification.

James 1:4 - And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jesus' words never expire:

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

I see faith alone for justification and working faith as means of becoming a child of Abraham to be **not mutually-exclusive**.

Trusting in God, taking steps of faith in God as Abraham had, the true circumcision (people keeping the precepts of the law) may be saved:

John 8:39-40 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. (ESV)

Luke 3:8 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. (ESV)

Luke 19:8-10 - And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (ESV)

Trusting and continuing to trust in God by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ, anyone (even gentiles) can be saved:

Acts 16:30-34 - Then he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, **Believe (4100. *pisteuó*) in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved**, you and your household. And they spoke **the word of the Lord** to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:19 - holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith. (ESV)

Gentiles should absolutely move towards continued faithfulness and obedience to God, producing agape love towards God and mankind:

Romans 2:4 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ - heirs according to promise:

Galatians 3:26-29 - for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

You can see here that faith alone and working faith seem to both be ways to be a child of Abraham. But either way, we must not reject Jesus. In other words, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would have all accepted Jesus as the Son of God, as the Messiah, as God and would have loved Him. And we must, too:

All who **a) believe without being circumcised** (i.e. they are not under the law), and also **b) those who are circumcised (adhere to the law) but walk in the footsteps of faith that Abraham had before he was circumcised** (still walk in faith as Abraham did before circumcision) are heirs according to promise:

Romans 4:11-12 - He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. (ESV)

It's evident from **Romans 4:11-12** and **Romans 3:27-31** that both the circumcised (those still keeping the precepts of the Law) and the uncircumcised are justified by faith.

It's not commanded for Christians to support the modern state of Israel. God hasn't forgotten about Israel, but those who will be saved must not reject Jesus. They need to come to faith in Jesus:

Romans 11:21-28 - For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins. As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. (ESV)

And when we talk about true Israel, what we really mean is those who do the works of Abraham who are Abraham's children who if we bless, we shall be blessed:

Genesis 12:3 - I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (ESV)

John 8:39-42 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

Romans 11:25-27 - Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins. (ESV)

This promise ("I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse") would apply for true-Israel, not the state of Israel:

Genesis 12:1-8 - Now the LORD said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, To your offspring I will give this land. So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. (ESV)

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. (ESV)

Surely those who are against Jesus Christ are not true children of Abraham:

Hosea 13:9 - He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper. (ESV)

John 8:39-42 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

Luke 11:23 - Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. (ESV)

However, to the unbelieving Israel of the flesh who are under the Mosaic Law and hardened against believing in Jesus Christ, (Yeshua), these verses apply. I still think that "the state of Israel" is a separate entity altogether. Jews who are under the Mosaic Law are Israel of the flesh - that's who Paul's talking about here who are hardened against the gospel, the Israel of the flesh who are under the Law of Moses:

Romans 9:30-33,10:1-4 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (ESV)

Romans 11:21-29 - For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins. As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (ESV)

We have family in the Lord which is different to our family of the flesh:

Philemon 1:15-16 - For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. (ESV)

Romans 9:3 - For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. (ESV)

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and **not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring**, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the **children of God**, but the **children of the promise are counted as offspring**. (ESV)

It's just a partial hardening though. There are people who are Jews who are also believers and followers of Christ:

Revelation of John 2:14 - But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. (ESV)

Galatians 6:13-16 - For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. (ESV)

Geography is still an important factor, but our focus must be on Jesus Christ, we must remain faithful to Jesus Christ:

Luke 21:17-22 - You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. (ESV)

Luke 21:28-36 - Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. And he told them a parable: Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (ESV)

Working-faith as a mode of being justified, walking as Abraham did while keeping the precepts of the law is still a mode of justification, as I currently (<2024-09-28 Sat>) understand:

Romans 3:27-31 - Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

[earlychristianwritings.com justinmartyr-dialoguetrypho.html](http://earlychristianwritings.com/justinmartyr-dialoguetrypho.html): **Saint Justin Martyr: Dialogue with Tryphon**

For the true spiritual Israel, and descendants of Judah, Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham (who in uncircumcision was approved of and blessed by God on account of his faith, and called the father of many nations), are we who have been led to God through this crucified Christ, as shall be demonstrated while we proceed.

[youtube.com: Are We "Commanded" to Support Israel? Engaging Ted Cruz' Comments {@TruthUnites}](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzXWzvJyfjU)

The blessing of Abraham is accessed through faith in Christ. Therefore, we must be clear that the entity being given a promise in Genesis 12:3 is ontologically distinct from the modern nation state of Israel.

One is a theocracy where you might have gotten stoned for certain crimes for example. The other is a democratic republic with a diverse population of Jews, Muslims, Christians, atheists, and so forth.

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. (ESV)

Luke 21:20-22 - But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. (ESV)

Here, Paul actually argues **for** keeping the precepts of the Torah, and relates actually keeping the precepts to those who have been circumcised in the heart. Being a 'Jew' inwardly is unbound by time:

Romans 2:25-29 - For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: The Book of James - {James 1:1-12} - God's word is a mirror to my condition to encourage what's right in me, correct what's wrong in me, and reflect God's love for me. A sermon by Chris Hilken in the book of James series at College Ave Church.

You can't have only half of Jesus. Jesus both protects us and disciplines us:

Psalms 23:4 - Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (ESV)

I do believe the rod can be used to mean discipline:

I Corinthians 4:21 - What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness? (ESV)

I believe a heart must be both believing **and** obedient to receive the grace through faith, since I believe true faith is both obedient and believing.

After receiving justification (counted not guilty) through obedient and believing faith, we should continue in obedient and believing faith but the work we do is to be tested and is not essential to our justification:

1 Corinthians 3:15 - If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (ESV)

We love (obey) because He loved us first, and through obedience we are sanctified, which leads to eternal life. Firstly, I'm not the judge, but I'm going to share my beliefs.

James 4:12 - There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (ESV)

I believe that if a person has a believing, obedient heart to Jesus, then that is the type of belief which qualifies as belief. Or perhaps disobedience simply leads to a curse but not condemnation:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

We're certainly supposed to trust Jesus and both believe and obey Him.
Heresies/delusions:

- free grace without Lordship (without sanctification by the Spirit)

– Not desiring to do God's will. i.e.:

* Not willing to keep Jesus' words.

- * Not willing to love Jesus.
 - * Not willing to obey Jesus.
 - * Not willing to follow Jesus.
 - * Not willing to love one another as Jesus loved us.
 - * Not servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Not trusting Jesus who has done the finished work for their justification
- Lordship without free grace (working to be forgiven, without belief in the truth)
 - Not willing to accept that Jesus Christ is the propitiation for our sins.
 - Not willing to submit to the righteousness of God which is once again, to accept the propitiation for our sins.
- * We must know that God loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- * **John 10:1** - Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. (ESV)
- Trusting on their own works to appease God's wrath.
- Not believing Jesus has done the finished work for their justification

I believe that either of those two heresies/delusions likely (but I'm not the judge) fall under this strong delusion category. It's very serious if they indeed do. We must believe the Truth and repent from sinful behaviour and be sanctified by walking in obedience to the Truth if we do not want to perish along with the world:

2 Thessalonians 2:11-13 - Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through **sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.** (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

II Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (ESV)

Justified and saved from wrath i.e. has obedient faith:

- Response of love for Jesus
 - **I John 4:10-11** - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)
 - **Ephesians 6:6** - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

- trusting on the finished work of Jesus and **trusting on Jesus Himself** who has done the work
 - Obedient to Jesus
 - The finished work of Jesus covers them

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Probably not saved from wrath i.e. without obedient faith:

- trusting on the finished work of Jesus **while not trusting on Jesus Himself** who has done the work?
 - No love for Jesus (not Jesus' sheep)
 - * not trying to keep His commandments
 - * no response of love for Jesus
 - The finished work of Jesus probably doesn't help them because they don't receive it by uniting the gospel with faith

Ephesians 2:3 - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (ESV)

Probably not justified:

- not submitting to the righteousness of God
 - not accepting that they needed forgiveness
 - not accepting that God loved them first by atoning for their sin

Hyper-Calvinism:

youtube.com: When Calvinism Goes Bad {Part 3} - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 4 min 24 sec

I need to explain Calvinism because I want to deal with the error, Hyper-Calvinism. What is that? That is taking the fact that God tells us man can't come unless the Father draws him because he is that depraved. Man is bad, man is dead in trespasses and sins.

There are those that have taken these doctrines of the sovereignty of God, the fact that there is an elect, the fact that God has a design in who He would save, the fact of irresistible grace, there are those who have taken that and they have **used their rationale and their logic and they've come to a point where you no longer have a Gospel.** They don't have the biblical Gospel.

And you can see how that can be, right? Okay, you have a sinner. That sinner does no good. How can he do good? If God by His irresistible grace penetrates into that man's life, gives him desire, opens his eyes. He's the God who says, "let there be light," he opens the sinner's eyes so that they behold some beauty in Christ. Well, he won't come unless he's drawn, he won't come unless God says, "let there be light." That's true!

But the Hyper Calvinist then says, "**well, because he can't do anything until God does something, then we better not press him to do anything.**"

romans45.org hypercal.htm: A Primer on Hyper-Calvinism I wrote and posted this article because I am concerned about some subtle trends that seem to signal a rising tide of hyper-Calvinism, especially within the ranks of young Calvinists and the newly Reformed.

History teaches us that hyper-Calvinism is as much a threat to true Calvinism as Arminianism is.

Virtually every revival of true Calvinism since the Puritan era has been hijacked, crippled, or ultimately killed by hyper-Calvinist influences.

Modern Calvinists would do well to be on guard against the influence of these deadly trends.

youtube.com: When Calvinism Goes Bad {Part 3} - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 20 min 46 sec

and [if] you in any way make them feel like it is valid for them to be unrepentant. You console them as though it is outside of their power, all that you are doing is encouraging them in a deception. You tell them, well, sit under preaching, pray, ask God for a new heart, ask God to make you repentant, ask God to give you faith, wait on the Lord. But you know what you have just done? You haven't humbled him, you haven't debased him, you haven't honored God. What you've done is you've actually appealed to his self-righteousness.

youtube.com: When Calvinism Goes Bad {Part 3} - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 23 min 10 sec

This is a parable. This represents the calling of sinners with the Gospel to come to Christ, to come to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

"A man once gave a great banquet and invited many" So you see the invitation. This is the Gospel invitation being pictured here. "And at the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come! everything is now ready!'" Isn't that what we tell sinners? Come! Everything is ready! Everything that was necessary for your salvation is done. Look, even Mr. Hart in the hymn we sang... Does Scripture say that all that He requires of you is that you feel your need of Him? I'll tell you what Scripture says, "Come! everything is ready." Because as soon as you say, "oh! I have to feel my need of Him." Do you know where you are looking now? How much do I feel? You are not bid to come because you feel anything. Now look, Scripture talks to those who feel certain ways. If you desire, if you are thirsty, if you are burdened or heavy-laden. It speaks to them to encourage them to come. But that is not the basis on which you come. Scripture commands you to come. That is the basis, that is the warrant to come.

Because you have been commanded, all men everywhere have been commanded to repent!
Come! Everything is now ready.

Seriously, this verse:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (*pisteuōn*): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

youtube.com: When Calvinism Goes Bad {Part 3} - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 26 min 31 sec

"Another said, I bought five yoke of oxen and I go to examine them. Please have me excused. Another said, I have married a wife (now watch these words) and therefore I cannot come." Did you notice? Cannot. Did you notice you cannot come to Christ unless the Father draws? Did you notice that this man says, "I cannot"? Do you see what kind of "cannot" it is? It's a cannot because I love other things more than I love Christ and more than I desire the salvation that He offers. I love my sin. I don't want to go to Hell. This is one of the problems that we are dealing with all of the time. We get people who don't want to go to Hell and then they are doing all the acrobatics and they're weeping the tears and all this and then they are frustrated. Well, of course they are frustrated because they want to go to Heaven without forsaking their sin. These people were making excuses. Do you know why you can't come? Because you love your wife more than Christ.

That's what Jesus said to those pharisees. You cannot come, you cannot believe, because you desire the glory that comes from one another. You see, when you desire something more than salvation, something more than Him, you cannot come. Why? Because you won't!

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. *katechó* Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?** So we see that **they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

John 8:51 - Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps (G5083 *téreo*) my word, he will never see death. (ESV)

5083. *téreo* Definition: To keep, to guard, to observe, to watch over. Meaning: I keep, guard, observe, watch over.

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteúo, pepisteukotas) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus qualifies, but belief without obedience or trust in the heart doesn't qualify, I am quite sure. But I am not the judge, God is.

youtube.com: When Calvinism Goes Bad {Part 3} - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 40 min 16 sec

Neither Jesus nor His apostles ever pressed men to use means to repentance and faith. They used means to produce repentance and faith. They preached the Word! They proclaimed Christ! They used means to bring about repentance and faith in the people they preached to. But they never preached to people to do things to bring about repentance and faith. They **commanded** them to repent and believe immediately!

youtube.com: When Calvinism Goes Bad {Part 3} - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 54 min 29 sec

Listen to Phil Johnson, he said, "one young Hyper-Calvinist he was dealing with told him, 'the message of the Gospel is that God saves those who are His own and damns those who are not.'" You can tell, Phil Johnson said this in a way that He did not believe that that is the Gospel. So what happens? The good news about Christ's sin-atoning death and victorious resurrection gets replaced. By what? By a message about election, reprobation, depravity, that God hates workers of iniquity and hates those that He has chosen to damn. There is nothing whatsoever that they can do about it. It is fatalistic. Hyper-Calvinism is very fatalistic.

Trust in God (Trusting in God involves trusting God and trusting God enough to do what He says):

- We should trust in God.
- We should have faith in God.
- We should have faith in Jesus.
- God justifies the one who puts their faith in Jesus, who trusts in Jesus.

Putting faith in Jesus means trusting in Jesus and trusting.

We don't love the Christmas presents more than our parents. Rather, we simply love our parents and they provide the Christmas presents. Likewise, we trust in Jesus and we believe that God justifies the one who trusts in Jesus.

The true believers follow Jesus. They are Jesus' sheep, and they keep His teachings and trust in Him (enough to obey Him penitently):

- trust Jesus
 - youtube.com: I trust in God !
 - even for their justification
- hear Jesus' voice
- love Him
- follow Him (they're being obedient)
- Jesus knows them

John 10:26-29 - but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (ESV)

We need to accept that God loved us first, and that we need forgiveness from God, that Jesus is our Lord and God, and King, and the propitiation for our sins. We need to accept forgiveness and pass forward forgiveness, and pass forward love and forgiveness freely as we have received love and forgiveness.

The ones who do not submit to the righteousness of God, but do not accept the love of God and do not accept that we needed God's forgiveness, and do not accept Jesus, and would prefer to be their own god - those people are like thieves. They want to be their own god. Maybe they want to walk on water, and have spiritual experiences, but are content stealing from God:

John 10:1 - Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. (ESV)

Malachi 3:8 - Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, How have we robbed you? In your tithes and contributions. (ESV)

Malachi 3:15-18 - And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape. Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him. (ESV)

God loved us first. We must accept that:

I John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

The ones who love Jesus, keep His teachings:

John 14:23-24 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. (ESV)

The free grace is so that Jesus may bring us (through His Lordship) to God. It's so that we might come to obey God:

I Peter 3:17-21 - For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (ESV)

I wholeheartedly believe that Jesus Christ can bring us to God. I also believe that by obeying Jesus, He works through us. I also believe that God wants us to obey Him of our own volition.

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

We must **both** believe the truth and be sanctified, **and** try to stop sinning (i.e. purify ourselves):

II Thessalonians 2:11-14 - Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through **sanctification by the Spirit** and **belief in the truth**. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sanctification:

I Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

I Timothy 6:3-11 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (ESV)

II Peter 2:6 - if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

I John 3:1-3 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. (ESV)

I John 3:3-7 - And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

Jude 1:4-5 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Sanctification:

I Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

In Christ we are forgiven that we might be brought to God practicing love and keeping Jesus' commandments so that we can be confident for the day of judgement:

Psalms 32:1-2 - Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. A Maskil of David. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (ESV)

Psalms 32:11 - Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! (ESV)

If you believe in Him, trust Him, embrace Him, receive Him.

John Piper says, "If you believe, you are united with Him, and it's all yours."

Talk youtube.com: 2 Peter 2 Destructive Doctrines- guidance from the Word

I'd rather be a doer than merely a hearer.

Matthew 7:16-20 - You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (ESV)

Correct Christology is important, but so is obeying Jesus' commandments:

Acts 24:22 - But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case. (ESV)

Matthew 21:28-31 - "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, 'I will, sir'; but he did not go. **Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first."** Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that **the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.**"

We must keep ourselves in the love of God by obeying Jesus Christ's commandments, because we're awaiting to receive eternal life:

Jude 1:21 - **keep yourselves in the love of God**, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

Keeping Jesus Christ's commandments is a requirement to inherit eternal life, not an extra:

John 15:10 - **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Whoever truly believes Jesus trusts in and is obedient to Jesus. We must obey Jesus Christ, and that obedience means being a slave of righteousness, leading to sanctification, which leads to eternal life:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (*pisteuōn*): This is the present participle form of the verb "πιστεύω" (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

17.7.5 God desired to give assurance to the heirs of the promise

God let Abraham know He would bless him because he was obedient to His voice and didn't withhold his son (Abraham's faith was tested to show that he *agape* loved God first before even his only son):

Genesis 22:15-18 - And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, **because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you**, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, **because you have obeyed my voice.** (ESV)

Hebrews 6:13-20 - For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, Surely I will bless you and multiply you. And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. **So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.** We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

17.7.6 Yield to God

Submit to God's will:

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (ESV)

Proverbs 3:6 - In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

Submit to Jesus' lordship:

Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus told his disciples, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (ESV)

Sow your own life as an investment for Jesus' sake:

Matthew 16:25 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

John 12:24-26 - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

St. Theophan the Recluse (1815-1894) The goal of human freedom is not freedom itself... but in God... with the intention that man would voluntarily bring it as a sacrifice to God, a most pleasing offering. (St. Theophan's "Path to Salvation" Topical Compendium, 169)

youtube.com: Nothing Can Separate Us from Christ's Love You are so *secure* in Jesus that you are so *bound* to him that he has you so *firmly* that His promises are so *precious* and so *glorious* and your destiny in him is so *firm* and so *fixed* and so *assured* that you can actually give your life away - give it away for others.

Seek God:

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Accept God's plans:

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (ESV)

Psalms 23:3-4 - He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (ESV)

Desire to do the will of God, and allow God's word to teach you what that is:

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that **by testing** you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and **acceptable** and perfect. (ESV)

Actually practice faith, and don't over-intellectualise God:

Proverbs 3:5-6 - **Trust** in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

We seek the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, not our own glory. We should aim not to speak on our own authority, but instead to speak the Truth from God:

John 7:18 - The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. (ESV)

For sure, I just want to speak the truth from God, and I want to be sanctified by the Truth, and I want to be corrected by the Truth:

Ephesians 4:15-19 - Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. (ESV)

Seeking God in truth and not seeking glory from one another is a good place to start in coming to believe. I guess that seeking the glory that comes from the only God involves seeking to glorify God:

John 5:44 - How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

Come to Jesus:

John 5:39-44 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But I know that **you do not have the love of God within you**. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

Yield to God. Let His will be done in us. If I do not fight against obedience to Jesus' commandments but are willing to do them then I am willing for God's will to be done in me. That is obedience:

Isaiah 45:9 - Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, What are you making? or Your work has no handles? (ESV)

Luke 14:33 - So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

17.7.7 Obey God and let Him save you

Fear of God or love for Him in obedience or thankfulness is work which comes out of belief. But faith works, even saving faith works. Saving faith **especially** requires obedience, I think. Faith without work doesn't exist I think because the work of God is to believe on who He has sent - Jesus.

Exodus 14:14-16 - The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

17.7.8 The work of God is to trust in who He has sent, Jesus. God's work is God working, and us working in obedience to God

John 6:29 - Jesus answered them, This is the *work of God*, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

God worked in this person's life:

Romans 14:18-21 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the **work of God**. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. (ESV)

17.7.9 Don't underestimate Jesus' saving power

Psalms 78:21-22 - Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, because they did not **believe in God** and did not **trust his saving power**. (ESV)

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

Jesus' blood applied to us can sanctify us:

Hebrews 13:12 - So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. (ESV)

With Lazarus - Jesus performed the miracle so the people watching could believe and have faith. Jesus wept before he raise Lazarus from the dead, and many other people believed in Jesus and were saved, I assume.

John 11:41-42 - So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.

I Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

John 11:35 - Jesus wept.

John 11:41-42 - So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.

And Jesus is able to save a person out of Jesus' own will, as he resurrected Lazarus.

Sermon youtube.com: Where's the Arminian John Piper?

John 11:43 - When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

Jesus is so generous that He saves even unthankful people, but we should definitely love Jesus as a response. This story should be taken to see how Good God is, but also taken as a warning against unthankfulness:

Luke 17:11-19 - On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. When he saw them he said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And he said to him, Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

17.7.10 Justification and redemption are a total gift

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

Justification by works/obedience and justification by so-called 'faith alone' is, in my opinion, not a dichotomy, because all the good works we do as a consequence of being redeemed are a gift to us - us being **in** Him.

Faith is obedient, so faith alone (without any work on our part) is obedient faith alone and to say "justified by working faith" is also true if the work is ascribed to Jesus.

God's work happens through us when we are trusting in, trusting Jesus Christ:

John 6:29 - Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

The penitent criminal on the cross next to Jesus had this saving faith in Jesus, as did Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8-9). The eunuch received Philip and was baptized Acts 8:37-38. That's certainly saving faith:

Mark 9:37 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me. (ESV)

So what is that first step of faith in Christ, or that first step of obedience to Christ? Hebrews 11 shows several people's journeys which do indeed look a bit different.

It's right to say that justification through faith in Christ, even justification by works is always **dependant** on faith in Christ:

Philippians 3:9 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that **depends on faith** — (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

17.7.11 Just believe/obey Jesus to receive more faith and revelation and salvation

The account of Jesus itself when it's read, and Jesus' words, are enough to inspire faith. Therefore, faith comes by hearing the word of Christ.

Jesus calls persistent endurance a work. It's also required to keep our confidence:

Hebrews 10:35-36- Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Faith is like Peter stepping out on the water. Faith works. But I think sometimes to create faith someone just has to actually believe Jesus because Jesus performs the miracle / the work.

The LORD did something similar for the Israelites when He parted the Red Sea. The Israelites obeyed God, and their obedience led them to sure belief. The Israelites didn't "work for God" as they obeyed God to walk through the Red Sea. Walking in obedience is not the same as "working". The Israelites were an actual part of the miracle of going through the Red Sea. The miracle wasn't just the water splitting, the Israelites walking through it was also miraculous. By obeying God, God sent them through the Red Sea. Obedience, belief and trust are all important in faith.

Revelation comes as we do what God commands us:

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

And I feel like we just need to start obeying God and obeying Jesus in order to be saved. Obedience is steps of faith.

Exodus 14:14-16 - The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

Exodus 14:21-30 - Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians. Then the Lord said to Moses, Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned

to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

Exodus 14:31 - When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed (H539 'aman) in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

1 : 539 'aman

2

3 a primitive root; properly, to build up or support; to foster
4 as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or be) firm or
5 faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet;
6 morally to be true or certain; once ([[<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2030>]])
7 interchangeable with 541) to go to the right hand:--hence,
8 assurance, believe, bring up, establish, + fail, be faithful
9 (of long continuance, stedfast, sure, surely, trusty,
10 verified), nurse, (-ing father), (put), trust, turn to the
11 right.
12 see HEBREW for 0541

Exodus 15:2 - The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Justification and redemption are a total gift:

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

Justification by works/obedience and justification by so-called 'faith alone' is, in my opinion, not a dichotomy, because all the good works we do as a consequence of being redeemed are a gift to us - us being **in Him**.

Salvation is the gift, and faith implies an obedient heart. Works can be dead works when they're not done in faith. Faith is what justifies. But faith works. Faith requires obedience to God. Faithless works do not justify. The works here that Paul speaks of are the works of the person who has been saved. It's Jesus' work on the cross which has brought us salvation:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved (G4982 sozo) through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works (G2041 ergon), so that no one may boast. (ESV)

1 : 4982 sozo sode'-zo

2
3 from a primary sos (contraction for obsolete saos, "safe"); to save,
4 i.e. deliver or protect (literally or figuratively):--heal, preserve,
5 save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

1 : 2041 ergon er'-gon

2
3 from a primary (but obsolete) ergo (to work); toil (as an effort or
4 occupation); by implication, an act:--deed, doing, labour, work.

I believe it's Jesus' works primarily, and that obedience on our part is an inevitable consequence of our redemption which is a gift to us, so to say we are justified by works (and James refers to Rahab who is mentioned in Hebrews 11) is really to say justified by obedience, but obedience is just a heart attitude that is part of faith and any work done in obedience is nothing to boast about because it is God who gives us instruction to obey:

James 2:24 - You see that a person is justified (G1344 *dikaioo*) by works (G2041 *ergon*) and not by faith alone. (ESV)

1 : 1344 *dikaioo* dik-ah-yo'-o
2
3 from 1342; to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent:--free,
4 justify(-ier), be righteous.
5 see GREEK for 1342

Read <https://www.hopefaithprayer.com/rahab-harlot-genealogy-christ/>

Since it's faith in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord that matters for justification, those who trust and obey God out of obedient faith are justified:

Romans 4:23-25 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

17.7.12 The obedience of faith

A person must be at least willing to do His will - obedience is at the essence of faith:

John 7:17 - If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

I think **Ephesians 2:8-9** when it says 'through faith' doesn't actually exclude obedience (obeying Jesus), because I think obedience is intrinsic to faith.

Exodus 14:14-16 - The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

The Israelites didn't "work for God" as they obeyed God to walk through the Red Sea. Walking in obedience is not the same as "working".

When it says "not a result of works", I believe it means something more like, "even if works were tied into the obedient faith, it's by grace". If a person's saving faith included works then that is fine.

I Corinthians 4:7 - For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? (ESV)

Our works have been gifted to us by God's grace - works of deed and word:

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

We're supposed to do good works of faith by Jesus' power so that Jesus' name is glorified - and those works done in Jesus' power are entirely given by grace to us:

II Thessalonians 1:11-12 - To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every **work of faith** by **his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, *according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (ESV)

God chose us and called us out of darkness into His marvelous light to proclaim His excellencies:

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

Faith-in-God is hearing God's word and believing it, and even acting on it, or at least the readiness to act on it. A person may act on faith in their heart by arriving at conviction. But it has to be faith in the truth. Then, like Peter stepping out on the water, or like the woman at the well going in to town to tell people about Jesus, or turning from sinful things, it produces more obedience.

Matthew 14:27-32 - But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid. And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, **command** me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter **got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, Lord, save me. Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

And there is an amount of faith, and true belief is all that's required to be saved, but Faith is so tightly linked to Obedience like Faith is linked to Hope. True belief is enough because it accepts what Jesus says, as a child believes. But I don't think this discounts that the same faith continues and increases through obedience.

Some people never seem to arrive:

II Timothy 3:6-9 - For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

But the ones who do arrive actually follow the teaching:

II Timothy 3:10-13 - You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

A changed heart is essential to be saved, I think, because it must produce more obedience. The Apostle Paul drives home His point that we must continue to obey Christ:

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we have forgiveness of sins and the right to become children of God, who practice righteousness, put a stop to sin, love their family in Christ, call God their Father, conformed to the image of Jesus. Jesus advocates for us as we are conformed to Christ's image:

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become children of God**, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

We will be disciplined in this process of being transformed into Jesus' image, so that we may not be condemned along with the world:

I Corinthians 11:29-32 - For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

We set our minds on the things of the spirit and this helps us to please God with our actions:

Romans 8:3-10 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (ESV)

Having believed in Jesus, we must put a stop to sin and love our family in Christ, being conformed to His image.

Romans 8:12-14 - So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (ESV)

Hebrews describes faith as the hope and conviction we need to draw near to God because we need to believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

The whole chapter of Hebrews 11 also describes many 'acts' of faith.

I Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

18 Faith in God

youtube.com: Theology is for Everyone J I Packer @time: 43 min 14 sec What's faith? Faith is trusting God's promises. Faith is trusting God's Son. Faith is trusting God himself as now our heavenly Father. Faith believes, faith trusts, faith turns in obedience to God, and faith lives touching the invisible, touching the realities of God from this time on as long as life lasts in this world.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (ESV)

Matthew 21:21-22 - And Jesus answered them, Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be taken up and thrown into the sea, it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. (ESV)

I think it's dangerous to stop there with describing faith because our faith should be built up trusting in God's Word, and corrected by God's Word.

18.1 Only with God are all things possible for one who believes. Our faith must be faith 'with God', and our faith should in accordance with His will

Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (ESV)

With faith the impossible is possible, but not without God making it happen:

Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, **if you have faith** like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move, and **nothing will be impossible for you.** (ESV)

With God, the impossible is possible. I think this is saying that to be in accordance with God's will is an intrinsic part of faith.

Mark 10:27 - Jesus looked at them and said, **With man it is impossible, but not with God.** **For all things are possible with God.** (ESV)

Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but **with God all things are possible.** (ESV)

All things are possible for those who trust in God, trust in Jesus, trust God, trust the Only True God:

Mark 9:23 - And Jesus said to him, If you can! **All things are possible for one who believes.** (ESV)

But our faith, as Christians, should be while willing God's will. We can ask God for things, but we should desire His will be done:

Mark 14:36 - And he said, Abba, Father, **all things are possible for you.** Remove this cup from me. **Yet not what I will, but what you will.** (ESV)

18.1.1 We should have faith for what is according to His will

I John 5:14-15 - And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. (ESV)

This guy supplicated to Jesus. Did he pray to Jesus? Maybe that's what Jesus meant by prayer:

Mark 9:23-29 - And Jesus said to him, If you can! All things are possible for one who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, **I believe; help my unbelief!** And *when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together*, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again. And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could we not cast it out? And he said to them, This kind cannot be driven out by anything but **prayer.** (ESV)

I mean, Jesus knows all hearts and sees our questions:

John 16:23-31 - In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father. His disciples said, Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God. Jesus answered them, Do you now believe? (ESV)

Luke 5:22-24 - When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Rise and walk? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—he said to the man who was paralyzed—I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home. (ESV)

Also, one other interesting note is Jesus commanded the demon to come out and to never reenter again. Also, when we pray, we will for God's will to be done:

Matthew 6:9-12 - Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (ESV)

18.2 Faith should be built up on trusting the Word of God

By Faith we **believe the Word of God** which says that Yahweh created the universe by His Word:

Hebrews 11:3 - By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (ESV)

Psalms 33:6 - By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (ESV)

Believe God's prophets:

II Chronicles 20:20 - And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed. (ESV)

When we are living our lives trusting in God, believing that He exists and rewards those who seek Him, I feel like God builds our house, and our faith:

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Jesus is the Rock:

I Corinthians 10:4 - and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and **the Rock was Christ.** (ESV)

Belief is important (and is an initial act of obedience):

Matthew 16:15-18 - He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

Obedience is important:

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

We believe the Lord Jesus is who He is, the Christ, the Son of the living God, and Jesus builds the house as we obey Him.

18.3 We should have minds that, by testing, we can discern the will of God, and act in faith according to God's will as far as we can discern

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that **by testing** you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and **acceptable** and perfect. (ESV)

18.4 Faith that has been built up in God's will produces miracles

Mark 11:23 - Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, **it will be done for him.** (ESV)

Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, **if you have faith** like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move, and **nothing will be impossible for you.** (ESV)

Matthew 21:21-22 - And Jesus answered them, Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be taken up and thrown into the sea, it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. (ESV)

Luke 17:6 - And the Lord said, If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, Be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it would obey you. (ESV)

18.5 This man trusted Jesus' word and acted on it - He had faith in Jesus

The guy believed Jesus and acted on it:

John 4:48-50 - So Jesus said to him, Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe. The official said to him, Sir, come down before my child dies. Jesus said to him, Go; your son will live. The man **believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.** (ESV)

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing through the word of Christ.** (ESV)

18.6 This man had faith to be made well. Paul the Apostle was also acting in faith

Acts 14:8-10 - Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, Stand upright on your feet. And he sprang up and began walking. (ESV)

18.7 Jesus, with compassion for the man, and faith in God, sternly commanded the unclean spirit to leave

Mark 9:19 - And he answered them, O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me. (ESV)

All things are possible for those who trust in God, trust in Jesus, trust God, trust the Only True God:

Mark 9:23 - And Jesus said to him, If you can! **All things are possible for one who believes.** (ESV)

Mark 9:22-25 - And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have **compassion** on us and help us. And Jesus said to him, If you can! All things are possible for one who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, I believe; help my unbelief! And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again. (ESV)

18.8 healing / deliverance ministries

I believe that deliverance ministries may be legitimate, such as this one:

- youtube.com: DEMONS CONSTANTLY SPOKE in her head. She saw a LIGHT & the voices were gone! {@MarkHemans}

I was really encouraged yesterday to see Mark busy at work with his ministry yesterday:

- youtube.com: ESTONIA MIRACLE REVIVAL 7 pm Fri, 6 pm Sat, May 10 &11th, Sobra 56, Tartu, Estonia {@MarkHemans}

18.8.1 I feel like we should have compassion when we are serving others, even in healing / deliverance ministries

Matthew 15:32 - Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, **I have compassion** on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way. (ESV)

Jesus had genuine compassion while performing miracles, and He had reasons too:

- **Mt 9:36** - When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion for them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (ESV)
- **Mt 14:14** - When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had **compassion on them and healed their sick.** (ESV)
- **Mt 15:32** - Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, **I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry**, lest they faint on the way. (ESV)

- **Mk 6:34** - When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and **he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.** And he began to teach them many things. (ESV)
- **Mk 8:2** - **I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat.** (ESV)
- **Mk 9:22** - And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, **have compassion on us and help us.** (ESV)
- **Lk 7:13** - And when the Lord saw her, **he had compassion on her and said** to her, Do not weep. (ESV)

youtube.com: God will use these moments, it wasn't for nothing @time: 2 min 52 sec Why do we have to endure these things? Why do we have to go through difficult times? Well, because it gives you context and perspective for what other people are also dealing with. So in the gospels we read many times that Jesus had compassion on them and then he healed them. Jesus had compassion on them and then he healed them. Now through my journey in a wheelchair my eyes have been opened like never before, for because of the things that I go through I have compassion on other people that are also dealing with the same things. So when when I pray for someone that's in a wheelchair that has a spinal cold cord injury I know what they are going through because I have been through the same things.

Likewise, we should have compassion:

Lk 10:33 - But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. (ESV)

18.8.2 Authority

youtube.com: How to Exercise Real Authority over sickness & demons {@MarkHemans} @time: 12 min

When you use the name of Jesus, when that name is given to you from heaven, and not just when you want to use it, when it's given to you from heaven, there's authority and Jesus Christ is there. When Jesus Christ, when the Holy Spirit gives you the words to say and you speak them, Jesus Christ is present. Why? Because the words that you speak are from above. They're God's words for the moment and Jesus Christ is the Word of God and you are speaking Him, and He comes on the scene. So authority comes from Jesus Christ, not from you. That's a very fundamental basis. So Jesus said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." Because all authority has been given to Him, you can therefore go with authority. It's got nothing to do with you. It's His authority upon you as His disciple. A disciple comes under the Master. The disciple follows the instructions of the Master. You have been sent. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" And then it says, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded **you**. And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Where does authority come from? Total obedience to the commands of Jesus Christ. Go and teach them what I have commanded you. That is the key to authority. It's total surrender to His authority. His authority comes upon you as you obey and surrender to Him. Praise God. So turn to the person beside you and say, "Just do as you are told."

At the end of the day, Jesus can do it, even if a person is demonised or struggling with sin. If a person in trouble calls out to Jesus or uses Jesus' name to cast out a demon, I believe that God can save them. If they confess the sin, or rebuke the demon and they really mean it then that helps massively. But godliness and holiness and lots of faith and walking in the ways of the Lord in obedience all help a huge amount in deliverance and helping others be delivered. If you love the same sin another person is dealing with then there seems to be far more resistance to turning others away from it:

I Corinthians 9:27 - But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (ESV)

Luke 6:42 - How can you say to your brother, Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye, when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:21 - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (ESV)

Acts 3:12 - And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? (KJV)

Matthew 7:2 - For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. (ESV)

18.9 Spiritual warfare

I think that while deliverance ministries can be helpful, even more important is keeping Jesus' sayings and commandments.

18.9.1 What to do if you are under attack

Continue trusting Jesus, believing his words, trusting His promises and obeying His commandments out of sincere treasuring love for God and your neighbour, and keep a good conscience with God, hold to His promises and fight back against the enemy's attacks with the Scripture and with obedience to God.

I Timothy 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you **may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience**. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (ESV)

Submit to God, and resist the devil.

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (ESV)

Romans 8:7 - For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (ESV)

Keep moving forwards in trust and faithfulness and obedience and fight the good fight of faith. Take every thought captive to Christ. Jesus said our enemies will be even in our own household. If you're fighting against Satan and his demons then the attack can come on through various people around you.

Matthew 10:36 - And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. (ESV)

Trust and rely on Jesus Christ Himself, and believe His words and teachings. He said that the one who puts his words into practice is like a wise man who builds his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

But the works we do out of faith in Jesus are done in Jesus - it's actually Jesus building our house. I strongly recommend during this time that you focus on the Lord Jesus Christ and put his commandments into practice and overcome the enemy by the word of your testimony and faith in the blood of Jesus while keeping Jesus' words and works.

Revelation of John 2:26 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, (ESV)

Revelation of John 12:11 - And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (ESV)

G4102 pistis Definition: Faith, belief, trust, confidence, fidelity; Meaning: faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness. Usage: In the New Testament, "pistis" primarily denotes a conviction or **belief in the truth of something**, often with the implication of **trust and reliance**. It is used to describe the faith that believers have in God and Jesus Christ, encompassing **both intellectual assent and trustful commitment**. "Pistis" is foundational to the Christian life, as it is through faith that believers are justified and live out their relationship with God.

Romans 3:25-26 - Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through **faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth (G4102 pistis) in Jesus. (KJV)

18.10 Deliverance

Faith in God is ultimately all you need, like Jesus.

youtube.com: How to Exercise Real Authority over sickness & demons {@MarkHemans} @time: 31 min

II Corinthians 4:13 - Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, I believed, and so I spoke, we also believe, and so we also speak, (ESV)

So the Word of God comes to us. We're reading the Word of God, the Bible. It comes to us, comes into our heart and we believe it, amen. And because we believe, we speak with authority at the enemy. Amen. So authority is shooting the Word at the enemy.

We also need to believe:

Matthew 17:16-20 - And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him. And Jesus answered, O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me. And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, Why could we not cast it out? He said to them, Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you. (ESV)

18.10.1 A simple command should work, with faith

Mark 9:25 - And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again. (ESV)

Matthew 12:28 - But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (ESV)

Luke 10:19 - Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. (ESV)

Mark 1:39 - And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. (ESV)

18.10.2 We can and should use Jesus' name to cast out demons - There is power in the name of Jesus

Luke 10:17 - The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name! (ESV)

Luke 9:49-55 - John answered, Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us. But Jesus said to him, Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you. When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them? But he turned and rebuked them. (ESV)

Luke 10:17 - The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name! (ESV)

Acts 19:13-15 - Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, I adjure you by the Jesus, whom Paul proclaims. Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you? (ESV)

18.10.3 Christians can be afflicted by demons

Ever since I began trying to be corrected by obedience to the Truth (for a sincere love of the brethren, trying to remain faithful and obedient to Jesus, etc.) after I was born-again of the Spirit, I have come under some very extreme satanic oppression.

I mean, I get spiritual attacked in various ways. Directly against my body, mind, soul or through other people.

Note Can a Christian even "have a demon?" I'm not an expert on this. I believe that demonic **oppression** is a reality because I've experienced it but also I believe there is Scriptural evidence for it (the Apostle Paul described being harassed by a messenger of satan). What about exorcism on Christians? I'm no expert on the demonic stuff. The issues could come from "spiritual defilement" as in II Cor 6:14-18 or from judgement (I Corinthians 11:29) or from sin (I Timothy 1:20). It might be that a born-again Christian with a new heart and spirit given from God is battling spiritual defilement (**II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1**). But we have propitiation for sin so we can be cleaned from spiritual defilement (**I John 2:1-6** by trusting and obeying Jesus Christ, walking in the light loving the truth and confessing sin). I'm going to keep the excerpts from Derek Prince and Isaiah Saldivar here because I'm not an expert on this.

II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.** (ESV)

I John 2:1-6 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

II Corinthians 12:7 - So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. (ESV)

This morning <2025-03-15 Sat> once again I woke up to a variety of things attacking me:

- I had just been dreaming some demonic dreams, along with feeling like I'm being groped and sexually touched, etc. - absolutely disgusting stuff.
- and then lying in bed, on the verge of trying to get back to sleep I'd be hit with intrusive "visions/pictures".

But as I lay there, I began focusing on the lyrics to a couple of songs. I made a concerted effort to focus on singing in my thoughts the lyrics to "A New Commandment", for example, and not effortlessly either. I could sing it without thinking about it, but I was trying to keep it in my mind and really meditate on the lyrics as I was singing it. And the demonic harassment subsided mostly.

This is a demon of harassment. I've also seemed to be afflicted with a demon of harassment (harassing dreams) and potentially others quite often during the last 3 years as I've become vocal about my testimony of Jesus and trying to follow Jesus. But I'll be getting some deliverance tonight. I command all unclean spirits to come out of me, stay away from me, to leave me and never return or enter me again in Jesus Christ's name:

II Corinthians 12:7 - So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. (ESV)

I have been harassed and attacked by demons relentlessly right up to today <2024-12-07 Sat 10:34>, and I've been able to notice it when in the past, before I had received correction by the Scripture, and before I was born-again of the Spirit, I was unable to see it. These strange, lying, harassing dreams which have been slamming my mind all through the night and wake me up in the morning come from demons. Spirits that do not confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus Christ has come in the flesh? All demons. The constant and continual run-ins I've had with people who speak antichrist, antibiblical, demonic things to me? Demons working through people.

youtube.com: How to Be Delivered | Sermon {@DerekPrinceMinistries} @time: 23 min 38 sec Demons

defile. They make us feel dirty and unclean. They project evil, impure images and thoughts and words into our minds. I have talked with people at various times who said, "Just when I am getting closest to the Lord. **When I really want to worship Him, these horrible things come into my mind.**" And I said, "**You can be sure it's a demon.**" Anything that wants to keep you from worshiping God is a demon. ... Another thing about demons is they operate in gangs. When one gets in it opens the door for the next.

List of characteristic activities of demons:

- They entice
- They harass
- They torment
- They compel
- They enslave
- Demons defile
- They deceive
- Demons make people weak or sick or tired or kill them

Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. (ESV)

Call on Jesus to be delivered:

Joel 2:32 - And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls. (ESV)

Three objectives of demons:

- Torment and torture
- Keep you from knowing Christ as Saviour
- Keep you from serving effectively

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

[youtube.com: How to Be Delivered | Sermon {@DerekPrinceMinistries}](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJyfjwvzgk) @time: 36 min 5 sec

18.10.4 Deliverance on oneself (according to Derek Prince)

Try to meet these conditions:

1. Be humble
2. Be honest
3. Confess faith in Christ
4. Confess any known sin
5. Repent of all sin
6. Break with all occult, curses and secret societies
7. Forgive others
8. Expel - breathe out

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. (ESV)

18.10.5 Using Jesus' name with faith

The name of Jesus Christ, Messiah, used to cast out a demon from someone who was unwilling:

Acts 16:18 - And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out that very hour. (ESV)

Jesus is stronger than anything:

Luke 11:19-22 - And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. (ESV)

18.10.6 Why some people are not delivered (according to Derek Prince)

For not meeting the conditions. It's not so much a test of your spiritual power. It's a test of whether or not you've met the conditions. When performing deliverance on others, don't focus on yourself. Focus on those people meeting the conditions. You may feel yourself a little midget, but you're representing a victorious Christ.

1. Lack of repentance - There is no guarantee to anybody who is not willing to repent.
2. Lack of desperation - Deliverance is for the desperate. Summed up in one word 'passivity.' And many times you've got to do something to prod the person who wants to be delivered. Christ has given us authority over human spirits but not over the human will. You cannot will for the other person. The person has to will for them self. I'm desperate.
3. Wrong motives. We are not delivered in order to get off the hook. We're delivered to serve the LORD.
James 4:3 - You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (ESV)
youtube.com: How To Expel The Enemy | Basics Of Deliverance Pt. 2 | Derek Prince @time: 27 min 14 sec
People who come to get off the hook do not qualify for deliverance.
4. Self-centeredness. Desire for attention. Some people don't get delivered because they wouldn't be the center of attention anymore. Some of the chronic cases of deliverance never want to get delivered because they're poor, neglected, rejected people. This is the only time they get the center of the stage. One thing you're notice about all people who are focused by demons is that in some way or other they are self-centered. In fact, self-centeredness is an invitation to demon attention. Sometimes you just have to let the person go and say, "Listen, you've had enough. You can do it for yourself and if you don't do it for yourself, nobody else is going to do it for you."
 - We can do this for ourself.
5. Failure to break with the occult. That includes getting rid of occult objects. Anything that savours a superstition is demonic. Moses said if you bring an accursed thing into your house you become accursed like it. Most Christians need to go through their homes and clean out a lot of rubbish. I make it a principle, I don't want to keep in my house anything that dishonours Jesus Christ or honours satan.
 - **Deuteronomy 7:26** - And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction. (ESV)
6. Failure to sever evil soulish relationships. Sometimes you have to break some relationships; if they're evil, if they're binding, if they're gooey - a kind of sloppy sentimentality that isn't honest.

- I rebuke in Jesus Christ's name that anti-relationship spirit which has been attacking my relationships which were everything to do with love and honesty and truth, and nothing to do with dishonest sloppy sentimentality.
7. Under a curse. Will not be delivered or healed until the curse is broken.
 - Any curses against me shall be broken in Jesus Christ's name.
 8. Failure to confess (G3670 homologeó) a specific sin. Abortion has to be confessed as murder.
 9. Not "separated" by water baptism
 - People who are not water baptised (in Derek Princes' opinion) do not qualify to stay free.
 10. Part of a larger battle requiring corporate action. Some people are satan's battlefield (this is definitely me), and satan will not let them go because of what they are themselves but because of what they stand for. There are people for who the whole body has to take responsibility. I need prayer to break these chains.

18.10.7 How to keep your deliverance

1. Make Jesus Lord in every area of my life.
 - I had a dream last night <2024-07-02 Tue> which said someone other than Jesus was my Lord (if I recall correctly), among other harassing dreams. I rebuke it in Jesus Christ's name. Jesus is my Lord and Saviour.
 - youtube.com: Chris Tomlin - I Will Follow With Lyrics
 - youtube.com: Sanctify Christ as Lord
2. Garment of Praise.
 - **Isaiah 61:3** - To grant those who mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. (NASB)
 - youtube.com: Mighty to Save - Hillsong Worship
3. Put on the full Armour of God
4. Live by God's Word.
 - **Matthew 4:4** - But he answered, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (ESV)
5. Submit to God and resist satan.
 - **James 4:7** - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (ESV)
6. Right fellowship. Our fellowship is an acid test of where we are at in our spiritual life
7. Come under discipline.
 - **I Samuel 15:23** - For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

- Rebellion is as divination/witchcraft. Most Christians indulge their moods and their whims and their fancies. We are not free to do that. It's just as dangerous to do that as it is to indulge your sexual impulses. You are not free to do it.

8. Make Jesus central.

- When satan is cast out, we need to fill the vacuum with Jesus. Focus on Jesus.
- **John 12:31-32** - Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (ESV)

Resist the devil. Stand firm in our faith:

I Peter 5:8-9 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (ESV)

Do not sin:

Ephesians 4:26-27 - Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. (ESV)

Put on the full armour of God:

Ephesians 6:11-12 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

18.10.8 Prayer by Derek Prince

[youtube.com: How To Expel The Enemy | Basics Of Deliverance Pt. 2 | Derek Prince @time: 48 min 48 s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJyfjwvzgk)

I'm going to lead you in a prayer in which you're going to have the opportunity to humble yourself, to come to Jesus and to affirm that you've met the conditions. I'll put in your mouth the words. You'll renounce the occult and every kind of contact with satanic power. You'll forgive every other person who ever harmed you or wronged you. You'll release yourself from every curse and you'll have to do that in faith without the understanding. And then you'll present yourself as a candidate for deliverance. And when you've said the prayer and met all the conditions. The last thing you'll say is Amen. And when you've said Amen, don't do any more praying. It's very religious to pray. Sounds good, but as long as you are praying, you're keeping the demons inside. They can't get out past your prayer. Don't speak in tongues. Speaking in tongues is wonderful, but it has the same effect, it keeps the demons inside. It's like when the ambulance or the police car goes down the road with its sirens blaring and its lights flashing. Everything else gets off to the side and lets it go past. That's how demons get out. Make way for them. Release them. Let them go out. Faith without works is dead. So don't stand there passive when you've said the prayer, waiting for something to happen. Do one very simple thing. Begin to breathe out. Expel. And you'll find if you have a problem, in a short while it will be more than mere human breath that is coming out. That's what you're after. Now when that happens, you might become undignified. You might not act in a very religious way. If you decide to be dignified and religious, you'll lose what you prayed for. It's your option. I suggest you turn loose and get it out. I've told people the devil is no gentleman. He comes in uninvited and he usually has to be kicked out. Kick him out with everything you've got. Don't spare him. Hate him. Listen, it's no sin to hate the devil. It's a sin not to hate the devil. To be passive and indifferent is sinful.

1 Now we are praying to Jesus the deliverer.

2 And I would like you to say these words;

3 They're all taken out of the Bible

4 and what I have taught.
5
6 Lord Jesus Christ...
7 I believe that you are the Son of God
8 and the only way to God.
9 That You died on the cross for my sins,
10 and rose again from the dead.
11 I come to You now for mercy
12 and for forgiveness.
13 I believe You do forgive me
14 and receive me as Your child.
15 And because You receive me...
16 I receive myself as a child of God.
17 And now Lord, You know the
18 special problem that I have.
19 The demonic influences that torment me.
20 Lord, I want to meet Your conditions
21 and receive Your deliverance.
22 First of all,
23 I forgive every other person
24 who ever harmed me or wronged me.
25 I forgive them all now.
26 Pause for a moment and quietly
27 name the persons you need to forgive.
28 We're going on. Lord,
29 I have forgiven all these persons.
30 I have laid down all bitterness...
31 all resentment, all hatred...
32 and all rebellion.
33 And I believe You've forgiven me.
34 I thank You for it.
35 I also renounce
36 every contact with Satan...
37 with occult powers,
38 with secret societies...
39 with anything in Satan's territory.
40 I repent of being on that territory...
41 and I turn my back on it now.
42 Also Lord, if there's
43 a curse over my life...
44 I thank You that on the cross...
45 You were made a curse...
46 that I might be
47 redeemed from the curse...
48 and receive the blessing.
49 And I claim that now.
50 Release from the curse
51 and entering into the blessing.
52 And now Lord, I want to come against...
53 any evil spirit in me...
54 that occupies any
55 area of my personality.
56 I want to tell You I hate them.

57 They are my enemies.
58 I will not make peace with them.
59 I will not compromise with them.
60 They will have no more place in me.
61 I turn against them now...
62 and in the authority
63 of Your name, Jesus...
64 I command them to leave me.
65 I expel them right now
66 in the name of Jesus.
67 Amen.
68
69 No more praying. I'll do the final
70 prayer, you do the letting go.
71 Begin to expel right now in faith.
72
73 Now Lord, as your servant and
74 representative, under the authority
75 of the local leadership I take dominion
76 in Jesus' name over every evil spirit
77 that has been renounced and I
78 command them to go in Jesus' name.
79 Release these people
80 and go from them now
81 in the mighty, all-prevailing
82 name of Jesus Christ.
83 I affirm that Jesus Christ
84 is Lord over this gathering.
85 That He has defeated Satan. That He
86 holds the keys of death and of Hades.
87 That all authority has been given
88 unto Him in heaven and in earth.
89 Satan, you are subject to us through the
90 name of Jesus. You have to obey us.
91 You have to go from these people.
92 You have no options.
93 The Bible says you must leave,
94 and leave you must, Satan.
95 In the name of Jesus. Amen.
96
97 Now just get a full deliverance.
98 Release yourself from everything.
99 Once the anointing is here
100 you can get rid of everything
101 and it's much more difficult
102 to do it when the anointing lifts.
103 That's right,
104 don't bother about other people.
105 Don't hold onto your dignity,
106 it'll come back in a few moments.
107 That's right. Thank You, Lord.
108 Thank You, Father.
109 Thank You, Lord Jesus.

- 110 Praise Your holy name.
111 Praise Your name, Lord.

18.11 Deliverance/exorcism

Typically, one person casts out the demon from another person. But we can also perform the exorcism on ourself. But we should have the following conditions met.

Conditions:

1. Be humble
2. Be honest
3. Confess faith in Christ
4. Confess any known sin
5. Repent of all sin
6. Break with all occult, curses and secret societies
7. Forgive others
8. Expel - breathe out

18.11.1 Good songs for getting rid of demons (speak the lyrics in your head or out loud, especially say them in your heart)

The Biblical basis for this:

Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. (ESV)

Proverbs 23:7 - For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, “Eat and drink!” But his heart is not with you. (NASB)

This morning (<2024-09-14 Sat>) I had this running through my head during my sleep and as I was waking up - I love it when God does that. I feel much cleaner today. This morning <2024-09-18 Wed> (4 days later) I was hit with some spiritual attack (including strange dreams) so I purposefully stayed up singing this song in my heart and mind and as I did, trying to 'will from the heart' to desire to do God's will and I was able to beat the spiritual attack back this morning :):

youtube.com: PURIFY MY HEART | Praise & Worship Song lyric video Purify my heart. Let me be as gold and precious silver. Purify my heart. Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire, My heart's one desire is to be holy, set apart for You, Lord. I choose to be holy, set apart for You, my Master, ready to do Your will

When I come under spiritual attack, I think through the lyrics to these songs in my mind and believe them, and this seems to make the attack stop:

- youtube.com: Charity Gayle - I Speak Jesus {feat. Steven Musso} Live

– multitracks.com: I Speak Jesus by Charity Gayle | MultiTracks.com

* I just want to speak the name of Jesus till every dark addiction starts to break, declaring there is hope and there is freedom. I speak Jesus

- youtube.com: Nothing But the Blood {Hymn} - Victory Worship, AWAKE84

- hymnal.net: Hymn: What can wash away my sin
 - * What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
- youtube.com: Jesus Christ Is Lord Reprise
 - genius.com: Paul Wilbur - Jesus Christ Is Lord {Reprise} Lyrics | Genius Lyrics
 - * Yeshua is Lord. His blood has overcome the enemy of our soul

I also put on a piece of paper over my body like this:

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1 Heavenly Father,
2 deliver me please and ... please in Jesus Christ's name I ask,
3 AMEN!!
4 Deliver me from these harassing spirits in Jesus Christ's name I ask. AMEN!!
5
6 I rebuke those harassing spirits in Jesus Christ's name.
7 I rebuke the spirits of ... and ... in Jesus Chrits's name.

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18.11.2 We can rebuke the devil with Jesus' authority

youtube.com: Should We Ever Speak Directly to the Devil? **Mark 1:25** we know that Jesus had authority over demons and that he spoke to them like, "Be silent and come out of him." And we know that he gave this authority to his disciples in **Mark 6:7**. He gave them authority over the unclean spirits and we know that when the 72 disciples returned, not just the 12, but the 72 disciples returned to report about their ministry, they said, "Even the demons are subject to us in your name." The words "in your name" mean that that's how they cast out the demons. Jesus cast them out in his own authority, the disciples cast them out in the name of Jesus. "Get out in the name of Jesus" is probably what they said.

Acts 16:18 - And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out that very hour. (ESV)

So when **1 Peter 5:9** and **James 4:7** say that we should resist the devil, I think those commands in **I Peter** and **James** include those times when the demonic assault on you or your loved one is so plain and so blatant that you should say something like, "No, no in the name of Jesus leave me alone." Or, "Leave my child alone in the name of Jesus. Be gone Satan, get out of this house."

Then we turn to Christ. Oh yes, we turn to Christ. This is the step that's probably neglected. At that moment we turn to Christ, we turn to the promise of Jesus: "I'll never leave you, I'll never forsake you. I'll always be with you. I bought you. You're mine. No one can snatch you out of my hand. I will help you. I'll be your Shield."

Mark 1:25 - But Jesus rebuked him, saying, Be silent, and come out of him! (ESV)

Example youtube.com: Deliverance from the Kundalini spirit

18.11.3 Demons are not rare

Mark 1:39 - And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. (ESV)

18.11.4 Demons consider a persons' body their home

- Sinful thoughts/behaviour attracts demons.

Matthew 12:43-45 - When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, I will return to my house from which I came. And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation. (ESV)

18.11.5 Renounce the ungodliness

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people**, training us to **renounce ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to **live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age**, **waiting for our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

18.11.6 This demon came out within the hour

It's often not instantaneous.

Acts 16:18 - And this she kept doing *for many days*. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out **that very hour**. (ESV)

18.11.7 This demon was resistant

After already commanding the unclean spirit to come out of the man, the unclean spirit resisted and then Jesus asked the demon its name.

Luke 8:27-30 - When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. **When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me. For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him.** He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, What is your name? And he said, Legion, for many demons had entered him. (ESV)

Jesus was saying to the man, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" The demon then responded. Then Jesus asked the demon its name.

Mark 5:7-13 - And crying out with a loud voice, he said, What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me. For he was saying to him, **Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!** And Jesus asked him, What is your name? He replied, My name is Legion, for we are many. And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, Send us to the pigs; let us enter them. So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea. (ESV)

18.11.8 All believers can cast out demons

Mark 16:17 - And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; (ESV)

Luke 10:19 - Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. (ESV)

youtube.com: Demon says it caused drug addiction. Felt overwhelmed by God's power like electricity. D

Don't think that it's you cuz it's not you, it's not who God made you to be. Uh, there's just this unclean parasite feeding on your soul, so yeah. God bless you. Hallelujah.

18.11.9 We must be spiritually-minded, not earthly-minded

I Corinthians 2:14 - The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:16 - From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. (ESV)

James 2:26 - For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (ESV)

18.11.10 Exorcism prayer by Derek Prince

Jesus' sacrifice outside Jerusalem is so that we might be sanctified through His own blood and come into Jerusalem. I still think that there's nothing wrong with bearing the reproach Jesus endured - in fact it's encouraged. I think we bear His reproach in order to be sanctified and then call Jerusalem our home:

Hebrews 13:12-14 - So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (ESV)

Galatians 4:25-26 - Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. (ESV)

Galatians 4:27 - For it is written, Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband. (ESV)

Galatians 4:28-31 - Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

- youtube.com: Spiritual Warfare on Earth - Derek Prince @time: 1 hrs 32 min 40 sec

1 You are going to affirm your faith in Christ.

2 He is the High Priest of your confession.

3

4 Say this: "Lord Jesus Christ, I believe You

5 are the Son of God and the only way to God,

6 that You died on the cross for my sins and

7 rose again that I might be forgiven and

8 receive eternal life."

9

10 Now we're going to deal with humbling
11 ourselves.

12

13 "I renounce all pride and religious self-
14 righteousness, and any dignity that does not
15 come from You. I have no claim on Your mercy
16 except that You died in my place."

17

18 Now we come to confessing sin.

19

20 "I confess [[<https://biblehub.com/greek/3670.htm>] [(G3670 homologeό)]] all my sins before You, and
21 nothing back. Especially I confess: ..."

22

23 And now name any particular sins that which
24 the Holy Spirit has convicted you.

25

26 Now we're going to continue with repentance.

27

28 "I repent of all my sins. I turn away from
29 them and I turn to You LORD, for mercy and
30 forgiveness."

31

32 Now we're going to deal with forgiving other people.

33

34 "By a decision of my will I freely forgive all
35 who have ever harmed me or wronged me. I lay
36 down all bitterness, all resentment and all
37 hatred. Specifically I forgive: ..."

38

39 And now say [under your breath] the names of
40 people you really need to forgive. The longer
41 you make this list, the better prospect you
42 have of deliverance. Specifically say, "I forgive...".
43 It's not difficult to forgive the person far
44 from you, but the people close to you can be
45 difficult.

46

47 Then we deal with the occult.

48

49 "I sever all contact I have had with the
50 occult or with all false religion,
51 particularly:"

52

53 Now you need to name the things and if you
54 have been in freemasonry or family, specially
55 name freemasonry.

56

57 "I commit myself to get rid of all objects
58 associated with the occult or false religion."

59

60 Now we're going to deal with any curses that may be over your life.

61
62 "Lord Jesus I thank You that on the cross You
63 were made a curse that I might be redeemed
64 from every curse and inherit God's blessing.
65 On that basis I ask You to release me and set
66 me free to receive the deliverance I need,
67 now."
68
69 "I take my stand with You Lord against all
70 satan's demons. I submit to You, Lord, and I
71 resist the devil. AMEN!!"
72
73 Now we come to the point where you expel.
74
75 "Now I speak to any demons that have control over me."
76
77 Now you speak to them directly.
78
79 "I command you to go from me now in the name
80 of Jesus. I expel you. Come out in the name of
81 Jesus."
82
83 Let them go.
84
85 Derek Prince said, "Every evil spirit that is
86 in these people I command you to go from them
87 now."
88
89 Now expel it. Exhale, cough it out.

18.11.11 Prayer by Isaiah Saldivar

[youtube.com: Mass Deliverance Prayer - If You Need Deliverance, Watch This! {Day 3 of 7}](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfXzvLcOjU)

18.12 Faith requires obedience - i.e. acting in faith / living by faith

Luke 8:21 - But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

- The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit is given to those who have faith in Jesus.

You can't have faith without obedience.

Song Keith Green - To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice (live)

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might **receive the promised Spirit through faith**. (ESV)

We need well-grounded (faith in Jesus), well-placed (on the right stuff) agape love for God, those in Christ, our spouse, and even called to agape love all people with agape love, but not agape-ing the world or the world's lusts:

I Corinthians 13:2 - And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love (**26. agapé - treasuring, valuing love**), I am nothing. (ESV)

Our hope should not be on our own lustful or idolatrous desires, but our hope should be on God's promises:

Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. (ESV)

We should hold the promises of God in our heart:

Mark 7:18-19 - And he said to them, Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his **heart** but his stomach, and is expelled? (*Thus he declared all foods clean.*) (ESV)

Acts 28:27 - For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And **understand with their heart** and **return**, And I would heal them.”

Actually, our faith and hope and heart's desire and our walking in faith should really be in line with God's will, and God's plan:

Matthew 6:9-12 - Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (ESV)

- 1 Faith-in-God = Hope-from/in-God * Work/Love/Walking-By-Faith
- 2
- 3 Hope-from/in-God = Belief(believing God) * Truth(God's word is Truth, Jesus is the Truth)
- 4
- 5 Work/Love/Walking-By-Faith = Obedience * Faithfulness * Fear-of-God * Response-of-love-to-Jesus *
- 6
- 7 Obedience = Submitting to the Righteousness of God * Turning from sin, loving, showing mercy, etc
- 8
- 9 Fear-of-God = e.g. The poor in spirit recognise their need of God's mercy and tremble at His Word
10 Fear of God is not only about having the heart to repent from sin and "beat hand on
11 endeavoring to please Christ with our actions.
12 godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret
- 13
- 14 Response-of-love-to-Jesus = e.g. praise, thankfulness, obeying His commandments
- 15
- 16 L f
- 17 Love is proportional-to the baggage which has been forgiven
- 18 Love forgiven-baggage
- 19
- 20 Obedience Love
- 21
- 22 F = H * L
- 23 Faith = Hope * Love
- 24
- 25 Faith-in-God when tested by God is found to be true Faith in God.
- 26 Faith-in-God must submit to the Righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ,
- 27 Jesus Christ having paid the price of sin, enabling a relationship with God.

I Corinthians 13:1-8 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all **faith**, so as to remove mountains, but have not **love**, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not **love**, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. **It does not insist on its own way**; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but **rejoices with the truth**. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 1:3 - remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

As the LORD's works are done in faithfulness, our work should be done in faithfulness towards God. Everything we do should be done in faithfulness to Him:

Psalms 33:4 - For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. (ESV)

Matthew 24:12-13 - And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

Even after arriving at the true knowledge through obedience, faith is further supplemented/nourished/aided by virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love:

II Peter 1:3-7 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. (ESV)

The true knowledge of Jesus grants us everything pertaining to life and godliness, allowing us to partake in the divine nature. We should then reinforce the divine nature with such things:

II Peter 1:3-4 - seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the true knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that **by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.** (NASB)

Because, having **arrived** at the true knowledge of Jesus, we are partakers of the divine nature, in order to be fruitful we should supply to our faith those qualities:

II Peter 1:8 - For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge (G1922 **epignosis**) of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 : 1922 epignosis ep-ig'-no-sis

2

3 from 1921; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment,

4 acknowledgement:--(ac-)knowledge(-ing, - ment).

5 see GREEK for 1921

18.12.1 Work/Love/Walking-By-Faith

II John 1:5-6 - And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. (ESV)

We must love in the same **way** Jesus has loved us - sacrificially, obedient to God - showing God's truthfulness, serving others:

John 15:12 - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (ESV)

Matthew 19:17 And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.

John 14:15-21 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

Matthew 22:37-40 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Mark 10:19 - You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. (ESV)

Mark 12:28 - And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, Which commandment is the most important of all? (ESV)

Mark 12:31 - The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. (ESV)

Luke 1:6 - And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. (ESV)

Jesus' commandments are consistent with the rest of God's commandments:

John 12:49-50 - For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—**what to say and what to speak**. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

John 15:12 - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (ESV)

18.12.2 Fear-of-God

Romans 4:5-8 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.

AMEN!! But this doesn't mean the other elements of working faith can't play a part.
Without love, faith is dead:

I Corinthians 13:1 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe (**G4100 pisteuo**) in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

pisteuo is obedient faith as it is the verb for faith (pistis).

James 2:22-26 - You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness-and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (ESV)

Without faith, work is dead. Whatever actions we make outside of faith is sin:

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

But the work of God is to believe in whom He has sent. So even believing in Jesus is work that is done in faith:

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe (**G4100 pisteuo**) in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

18.12.3 Faith vector illustration

There is an amount to faith, fear of God and love:

Genesis 20:11 - Abraham said, I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 1:3 - We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your **faith is growing** abundantly, and the **love of every one of you for one another is increasing**. (ESV)

Deeds, love, faith, service and perseverance are not mutually exclusive. They're all important to God and overlap:

Revelation of John 2:19 - 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

He loved us first, and that is why and how we love (knowing we've already received mercy). Christ's love is not simply charity but a) it's passing-forward Christ's love, and b) it's to relieve other's burdens (mercy, not sacrifice):

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Acts 2:45 - And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:4 - But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. (NASB)

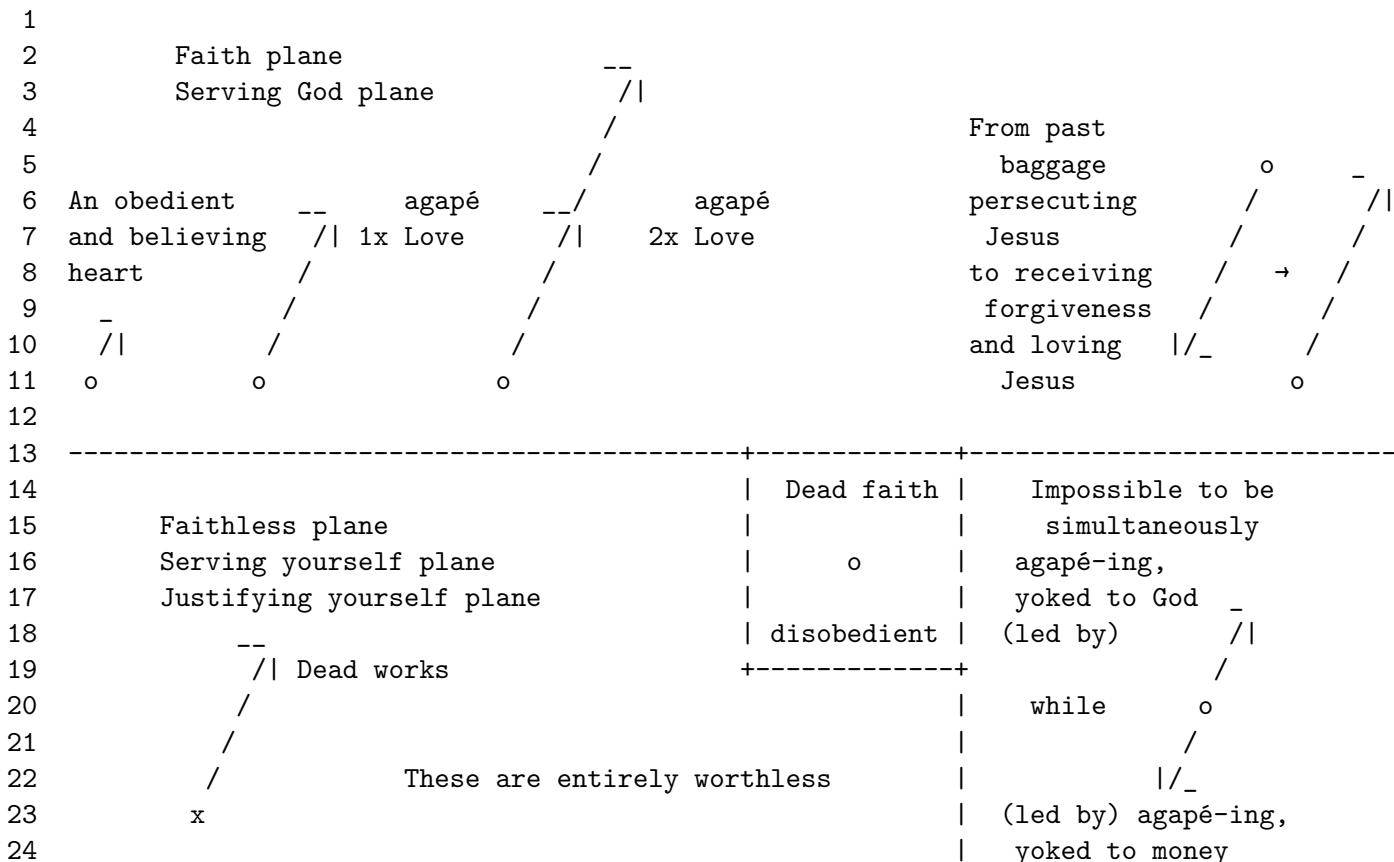
There is a relation here:

I Corinthians 13:7 - Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

I Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Belief and action are like a vector.



Faith has 'magnitude' and may be described as a vector:

- The origin of hope/belief is represented by the point.
 - On the Faith plane, positive magnitude comes from trust in God
- Hope-from/in-God is the direction.
- Love/Walking-By-Faith/Obedience is the magnitude.

Work should be separated. But good work does come from an obedient heart.

Jesus commanded us to have faith in Him, He commanded us to love one another as He loved us and He also taught people to forsake sin (John 5:14, John 8:10-11). As Christians we are told that we must continue on, abiding in Jesus' teachings (II John 1:9-10). Through Jesus' teaching and commandments we can draw near to God through faith in Him and be saved.

The doing of the law and the actions are subtly different. People can be doers of the law (people who love God and their neighbour) who act (produce good works):

James 1:21-25 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (ESV)

I want to be clear, having faith in Jesus Christ is not dead faith. Dead faith is precisely not having faith in Jesus Christ.

An obedient heart is required for it to not be 'dead faith' and when we put our trust in Jesus we have started obeying Him.

John 1:15 - (John bore witness about him, and cried out, This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.) (ESV)

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

Faith in the wrong thing:

- On the Faithless plane, positive magnitude comes from trust in something else, i.e. money or self

It's God who tests the faith, and God who justifies:

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

III John 1:11-12 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. (ESV)

That's why I don't like making an assertion on the exact way that God justifies, because God is the justifier.

Galatians 5:5 - For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly **wait for the hope of righteousness**.

Galatians 5:18 - But **if** you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

We must be **doing** the will of God to not be under the law:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but **will have the light of life**.

Righteousness is the free gift to be received through obedience:

Romans 5:17 - If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the **free gift of righteousness** reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jesus made the Way - He **is** the Way:

Romans 5:18-19 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience **the many** will be made righteous.

The Way is available to walk for everyone who is obedient.

Doing the will of Father God:

- obedience to Jesus leads to righteousness - obedience/faith to receive the gift, even of the Spirit
 - led by the Spirit, obeying Jesus' words
 - * being led by the Spirit and obeying Jesus' words are in alignment and do not contradict
- slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification
 - at its end, eternal life
- sanctification leading to eternal life
 - sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth
 - knowledge of the truth
 - justification

Romans 6:13-23 - Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness**? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching** to which you were committed*, and, having been set free from sin, have become **slaves of righteousness**. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The love of the truth (treasuring the truth) must be received and accepted to be saved:

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

People will put their trust in and love what is false:

II Thessalonians 2:11 - For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe (G4100 pisteuo) what is false (G5579 pseudos), (NASB)

Those people who did not have faith in the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness may be condemned. True 'pistis' faith involves an agape love of the truth as I Thes 2:10 shows:

II Thessalonians 2:12 - in order that all may be condemned who did not believe (G4100 pisteuo) the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The love of the truth involves faith in the truth (which agape-loves the truth) and sanctification (being corrected, cleaned up by the truth through trusting and obeying the Truth, trusting and obeying Jesus Christ):

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Agape love not only assents to but rejoices with the truth:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

But God chose some to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through **sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.**

Jesus called us to sanctified (i.e. repent from sin, and live to God). We seek the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Interestingly, we don't seek our own glory, but Paul says that God chose us to be sanctified by the Spirit and belief in the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:14 - To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may **obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1	1519	[e]	3739	[e]	2532	[e]	2564	[e]	4771	[e]
2	eis		ho		kai		ekalesen		hymas	
3					,					
4	to		this		also		He	called	you	
5	Prep		RelPro-ANS	Conj		V-AIA-3S	PPro-A2P			
1	1223	[e]	3588	[e]	2098	[e]	1473	[e]	1519	[e]
2	dia		tou		euangeliou	hēmōn	eis		peripoiēsin	
3					,					
4	through		the		gospel		of	us	to	[the] obtaining
5	Prep		Art-GNS	N-GNS		PPro-G1P	Prep		N-AFS	

of [the] glory of the Lord of us Jesus Christ:

1	1391	[e]	3588	[e]	2962	[e]	1473	[e]	2424	[e]	5547	[e]
2	doxēs		tou		Kyriou		hēmōn		Iēsou		Christou	
3			K			X		.				
4	of	[the]	glory	of	the	Lord	of	us	Jesus	Christ		
5	N-GFS		Art-GMS		N-GMS		PPro-G1P	N-GMS	N-GMS			

We seek the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, not our own glory. We should aim not to speak on our own authority, but instead to speak the Truth from God:

John 7:18 - The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. (ESV)

For sure, I just want to speak the truth from God, and I want to be sanctified by the Truth, and I want to be corrected by the Truth:

Ephesians 4:15-19 - Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. (ESV)

Seeking God in truth and not seeking glory from one another is a good place to start in coming to believe. I guess that seeking the glory that comes from the only God involves seeking to glorify God:

John 5:44 - How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

We live by the Spirit:

Ephesians 2:18 - For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

We are made alive by the Spirit so we should walk by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:25 - If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

If we walk by the Spirit, we will not gratify the desires of the flesh:

Galatians 5:16 - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

There are sinning people that alienate themselves from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart:

Ephesians 4:18-29 - They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

But having been taught in Jesus, the truth which is in Jesus, to put off the old self and to be renewed in the spirit our our mind, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness:

Ephesians 4:21-24 - assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Speak the truth and do not sin:

Ephesians 4:25-28 - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (ESV)

<https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/truth-for-life/listen/do-not-give-the-devil-a-foothold-part-1.html>

Ephesians 1:17 - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

The outcome of being set free from sin and becoming a slave to God is receiving the gift of eternal life:

Romans 8:33 - Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the fruit you reap leads to holiness, and the outcome is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (BSB)

Salvation is a process inclusive of sanctification.

Salvation is forever. Once saved, always saved. Once received eternal life, it's forever youtube.com: John MacArthur - How do I know if I'm really saved?

The type of faith that saves is a faith that agape loves the truth. So we have faith in Jesus and we agape love Him. Sanctification is a process that lasts some period of time. But we come to Jesus, we trust and obey Him, Jesus takes our idols from us (we give them up for Him), we shed the things of the old sinful nature and then Jesus gives us rest at some point, and at that point our hearts have been transformed to love our family in Christ sincerely.

For permanent abiding we need to have been perfected in holiness (sanctification must have come to completion with us having put off sinful stuff that would prevent a person from abiding forever). If we hold hate for anyone in Christ, (i.e. the opposite of agape love for them), then we would not have eternal life. At the end of sanctification, is being "always saved" and having eternal life that cannot be lost. Can a person fall way before arriving at this point? I think so. We have to continue holding faith in Jesus and obeying Jesus and Jesus gives us rest. But the slave to sin does not remain in the house forever. This is why we trust and obey Jesus and it is Jesus who gives the rest when He gives it because He transforms our hearts to love the light, to love the truth.

Hebrews 7:1-25 - For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever. See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?

For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. On the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, You are a priest forever. This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost (3838. pantelés - all complete, entire) **those who draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (ESV)

youtube.com: John Piper - Saved Forever @time: 17 min 16 sec I am saved today and will be saved tomorrow and all eternity because Hebrews 7:25 C says He always lives to pray for me.

A person must **do** the will of **Father God** (not their own will); They must be obedient. Faith and obedience are inseparable.

To be fruitful, a person must be further obedient after arriving at the knowledge of the truth and supplement their faith with Christian virtues:

II Peter 1:8 - For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge (G1922 *epignosis*) of our Lord Jesus Christ.

19 Jesus has immortality and gives eternal life, but we must come to Him in obedience, and follow Him, to receive it

John 5:39-44 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But I know that **you do not have the love of God within you.** I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

We must take hold of the eternal life to which we are called. We made the confession to eternal life, and we must now fight the good fight of the faith, until after being slaves to righteousness, obeying Jesus, we are sanctified and receive eternal life.

Hebrews 3:13-14 - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.** (ESV)

I Timothy 6:11-16 - But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. **Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Matthew 7:21-23 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (ESV)

So those people doing works in Jesus' name were still disobedient, similar to the following example:

Leviticus 10:1-2 - Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

John 11:41-42 - So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.

The works have to be the will of Father God. Initially, and ongoing, this is believing in Him whom He has sent. It's believing in Jesus, and continuing to believe in Jesus, putting your trust in Jesus, having faith in Jesus, obeying Jesus and submitting to the righteousness of God.

John 6:29 - Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you **believe in him whom he has sent**. (ESV)

Being a servant of Christ **from the heart** is doing the will of God.

Ephesians 6:6 - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as **servants of Christ**, doing the will of God **from the heart**,

Repenting from sin is doing the will of God.

I Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

Doing good is doing the will of God.

I Peter 2:15 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

Doing the will of God, a person will have eternal life.

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

Surely, the Bible teaches that all of these together are the will of God, and not simply one of them without the others.

19.1 Do not doubt, and believe that you have received it, even acting in a way in which it is already received

James 1:1-5 - James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

The one who does not doubt is unwavering and is not tossed around by the sea. Therefore, it's an ongoing thing.

James 1:6 - But he must ask in faith (G4102 pistis) without any doubting (G1252 **diakrino**), for the one who doubts (G1252 diakrino) is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. (NASB)

But for our prayer requests to be answered this way, we must be keeping His commandments and do what pleases Him:

I John 3:21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, **we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.** And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another**, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

If we want our prayers answered by Father God, we must trust Jesus came from God as we treasure Jesus and treasure His words. It's **in that day** (when we are trusting Jesus and keeping His commandments, doing what pleases God), doing God's will, whatever we may ask of the Father in Jesus' name, He will give to us. In what day? In the day that the Father Himself loves (agape loves) us **because we have loved (agape loved) Jesus and trusted that He came from God.**

John 16:22-27 - So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. **In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.** Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. **In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.** (ESV)

Proverbs 14:26 - In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge. (ESV)

Faith begins and continues:

- be walking in obedience
- no doubting
- no wavering
- no withdrawing
- no hesitating

Mark 11:22-23 - And Jesus answered them, Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

Walk in what you have asked for in prayer:

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

It's important to forgive others in order to move forward, because unforgiveness I think may inhibit moving into what you have asked for in prayer:

Mark 11:25 - And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (ESV)

We must receive Jesus' words, walk in them and come to **know in truth** (we must truly know) that Jesus came from God.

John 17:8 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have **come to know in truth that I came from you**; and they have believed that you sent me.

Therefore, we should obey Jesus and arrive at the truth. Obedience is a part of faith. Like Abraham obeying God, or like Israel crossing through the Red Sea, it's obedience which leads to sure belief. And the obedience doesn't end.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you free." (NASB)

19.2 Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the foundation which we build as disciples

Faith in Jesus' finished works on the cross is the cornerstone: Faith in His blood.

Hebrews 6:1-2 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:19-21 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone**, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:10-15 - According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder **I laid a foundation**, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For **no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ**. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (ESV)

19.3 God is the one building the foundations of the city

Hebrews 11:8-10 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (ESV)

19.4 Building a foundation (on the cornerstone of Jesus)

Faith in Jesus' finished works is the foundation of any further foundation, but the foundation building continues as we do (believe and obey) His teachings.

Luke 14:27-30 - Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. (ESV)

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground **without a foundation**. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

I Chronicles 28:10 - Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:9-13 - For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. (ESV)

19.5 To go where Jesus has not yet been preached is to avoid building on other people's foundations

Romans 15:18-21 - For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; and thus **I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation**, but as it is written, Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand. (ESV)

19.6 We work as servants of God, and the foundation of our work must be Jesus Christ

I Corinthians 3:9-15 - For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

19.6.1 For Christ

I Corinthians 4:9-10 - For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute.

19.7 Love

- Love without God's grace is not God's love

- It's sacrificial

- * Not what we give, but how we give

- * The condition of the heart is what God will judge
 - It's cheerful obedience to God, cheerful obedience to Jesus
 - It's what happens when faith is working

19.7.1 Love is doing what Jesus has said for us to do. Love is following the commandments

II John 1:5-6 - And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. (ESV)

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful** giver. (ESV)

19.7.2 Almsgiving is a great practice - God really loves a cheerful giver

Acts 10:2 - a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, “Cornelius!” And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

II Corinthians 9:7 - Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

19.7.3 The person who loves their brother abides in light

1 John 2:10 - Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. (ESV)

19.8 Justifying faith should result in going from it being impossible to please God to possible

It's impossible to please God without faith, but with faith all things are possible.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

All things are possible for God.

Without God we can't have eternal life, because we need a relationship with Jesus.

We need to be able to fulfill the requirement of the law, to love God and one's neighbour and at the same time submit to the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ and to do the will of Father God in order to have eternal life. It's impossible without God's help.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

Galatians 6:5 - For each will have to bear his own load. (ESV)

Also, we **must** love one-another:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

19.8.1 Faith submits to God's will

Mark 14:36 - And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.

Learning God's will through submission to God's Word.

Ephesians 5:24 - Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

All things are possible for those who have faith.

Mark 9:22-27 - It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" And Jesus said to him, "If You can?" All things are possible to him who believes (G4100 pisteuo)." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief." When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again." After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.

Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Mark 10:27 - Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.

Luke 1:37 - For nothing will be impossible with God.

Luke 18:27 - But he said, What is impossible with men is possible with God.

It's impossible to please God without faith, but with faith all things are possible.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

19.8.2 The Mosaic law doesn't help people to keep the law. It doesn't save - it only condemns or justifies. Only grace through faith in God who raised Jesus from the dead saves

The Mosaic Law was a *former commandment*, and the Mosaic Law does not save, but we have new commandments from Jesus Christ who saves us as we trust in, have faith in and obey Him:

Galatians 3:21-24 - Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:19-20 - On the one hand, a **former commandment** is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the **law made nothing perfect**); but *on the other hand, a better hope* is introduced, **through which we draw near to God.** (ESV)

II John 1:4-6 - I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

Paul seems to refer to the Mosaic law as the ministry of death, and Paul refers to the ministry of the Spirit of Christ as giving life:

II Corinthians 3:6-9 - who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. (ESV)

Jesus Christ was and is sinless:

I Peter 2:22 - He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (ESV)

Jesus was sinless, and it is because Jesus was sinless that we have hope of an eternity in heaven. If Jesus were not sinless, there would be no sacrifice for sin.

And we are also cleaned up through faith in Jesus, being led by His Spirit, following His commandments, helping us to meet the requirement of the law, not by trying to be justified through perfect Mosaic law-keeping but instead by having faith in Jesus Christ, following **Christ's law**:

Acts 13:38-39 - Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through (G1223 **dia**) Him forgiveness (G859 **aphesis**) of sins is proclaimed to you, and through (G1722 **en**) Him everyone who believes (G4100 **pisteuo**) is freed (G1344 **dikaioo**) from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. (NASB)

Due to Jesus, forgiveness is proclaimed:

1 : 1223 dia dee-ah'
2
3 a primary preposition denoting the channel of an act; through (in very
4 wide applications, local, causal, or occasional):--after, always,
5 among, at, to avoid, because of (that), briefly, by, for (cause) ...
6 fore, from, in, by occasion of, of, by reason of, for sake, that,
7 thereby, therefore, X though, through(-out), to, wherefore, with
8 (-in). In composition it retains the same general importance.

Forgiveness: Pardon, freedom.

1 : 859 **aphesis** af'-es-is
2
3 from 863; freedom; (figuratively) pardon:--deliverance, forgiveness,
4 liberty, remission.
5 see GREEK for 863

Together with him, everyone who has faith (continues in faith) in him is freed from all things from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses:

1 : 1722 en en
2
3 a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or
4 state), and (by implication) instrumentality (medially or
5 constructively), i.e. a relation of rest (intermediate between 1519
6 and 1537); "in," at, (up-)on, by, etc.:--about, after, against, +
7 almost, X altogether, among, X as, at, before, between, (here-)by (+
8 all means), for (... sake of), + give self wholly to, (here-)in(-to,
9 -wardly), X mightily, (because) of, (up-)on, (open-)ly, X outwardly,
10 one, X quickly,
11 X shortly, (speedi-)ly, X that, X there(-in, -on),
12 through(-out), (un-)to(-ward), under, when, where(-with), while,
13 with(-in). Often used in compounds, with substantially the same
14 import; rarely with verbs of motion, and then not to indicate
15 direction, except (elliptically) by a separate (and different)
16 preposition.

Faith is how we receive the propitiation by His blood. God justifies the one who **has** (continues having) faith in Jesus. The law of faith is what we keep:

Romans 3:20-27 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, **to be received by faith**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

Yes, the requirement of the **law** might be fulfilled in us, who do something i.e. walk according to the spirit.

Romans 8:4 - in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The mind set on the spirit submits to the law:

Romans 8:5-7 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

See, Jesus actually taught people to practice, but without hypocrisy:

Matthew 23:2-7 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. (ESV)

Polycarp 6:3 Let us therefore so serve Him with fear and all reverence, as He himself gave commandment and the Apostles who preached the Gospel to us and the prophets who proclaimed beforehand the coming of our Lord; being zealous as touching that which is good, abstaining from offenses and from the false brethren and from them that bear the name of the Lord in hypocrisy, who lead foolish men astray.

The law is not of the flesh. The law is spiritual:

Romans 7:14 - For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. (ESV)

But the Spirit helps us to put to death the deeds of the flesh.

Galatians 5:19 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

Romans 8:10-13 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

If I understand correctly, the Law, which is spiritual, was weakened by our flesh, but Jesus Christ's flesh was rent on the cross in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who don't walk according to the flesh, but who walk according to the Spirit:

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

Paul says that pursuing the righteousness that is by Mosaic law, is placing confidence in the flesh:

Philippians 3:4-7 - though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. (ESV)

But to put confidence in the Spirit is to not to abandon obedience, but to seek instead to know Christ Jesus, our Lord, with obedient faith to Jesus. Paul wants to know the power of Christ's resurrection in this life:

Philippians 3:8-11 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of **his resurrection**, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (ESV)

But when does the resurrection from the dead happen for a person (i.e. into an incorruptible body)? Later. Having being born-again of the Spirit, there is still the resurrection of the body to await:

II Timothy 2:11-18 - The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. (ESV)

So we still must/should forsake sin after getting born-again, but **the Holy Spirit** helps us to do that. God saves us from sin by giving us immediate justification through faith to be in relationship with Him, plus the strength to forsake sin.

II Peter 2:2-11 - And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them **the way of truth** will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. (ESV)

II Peter 2:19-20 - They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

Therefore, the **way of truth** involves believing the truth and to not blaspheme it involves also practicing the truth and obeying Righteousness (trusting and obeying Jesus) and turning away from sin is certainly a consequence of turning to trust and obey Jesus.

Talk youtube.com: The Hidden Parable of Moses that Few Christians Understand

II Peter 2:2 - And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. (ESV)

19.8.3 With God, meeting the requirement of the Law and entering the Kingdom is possible

Jesus called us to follow Him, and fulfilled the law, and showed us how to love. This law-fulfilling love which we can have through faith/obedience to Jesus is how Jesus, I think demonstrated and taught how to follow the 2 great commandments from the heart. The 10 commandments Jesus also called us to follow from the heart.

This guy still had get over this final hurdle, to love God. Jesus was right in front of Him - he was asked to follow Jesus now and help others. The flip-side of helping of others is putting our hope in God and not in our material possessions. Other people may be in desperate need of our possessions. But we are never as attached to our own material possessions as we are to having faith in God, to obeying Jesus, to following Jesus, to keeping Jesus' commandments. Jesus said the one who keeps His commandments is the one who loves him:

Matthew 19:17 - And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. (ESV)

Keeping the 10 commandments from the heart was not considered an extra for Jesus. Jesus said one thing you "lack". But Jesus didn't say to stop doing the 10 commandments:

Mark 10:18-23 - And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and

come, follow me. Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! (ESV)

Jesus calls us to go beyond merely keeping said commandments (i.e. walking in holiness) but through faithful obedience to Him, to walk as followers of Him, walking in righteousness, to exercise His love as well:

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 25:40 - And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

We have to be known by God:

Matthew 25:11-12 - Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. (ESV)

Following the 2 great commandments and 10 commandments from the heart and getting over that hurdle to meeting the requiremetn of the law, to love God and our neighbour and be justified in Christ is possible through following Christ:

Matthew 19:16-26 - And behold, a man came up to him, saying, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The young man said to him, All these I have kept. What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

The guy was still coveting his possessions. To find life, one needs to let go of covetousness:

Luke 12:15 - And he said to them, Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. (ESV)

[youtube.com: God is the Gospel @time: 45 min 31 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfzvXWzQHc)

Quote from John Piper The prosperity gospel is no gospel because what it does is offer to people what they want as natural people.

Amen to that.

The reason we want to be righteous is so we get God, not that we **become** God but that we abide in God. God is the Gospel - YouTube @time: 40 min 42 sec

Yes, we must be obedient as He is obedient, but that first act of obedience and the most important one is that we allow Jesus to wash us. We must believe, Jesus, trust in Jesus:

Philippians 2:5-11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (G1843 *exomologeó*) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ESV)

We must accept this teaching:

John 6:40-47 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. They said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, I have come down from heaven? Jesus answered them, Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. (ESV)

AMEN!!

Amen to that.

God wants to be our treasure, our heart's desire. I want that too:

Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

Job 22:24-26 - if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. (ESV)

Jesus emptied Himself so we can become rich - this is true, but it's so we can also empty ourselves so others can become rich. I think what Jesus gives us is heavenly treasure, and what we can do with earthly wealth here on earth is give to those who are in need of it, and store up heavenly treasure:

II Corinthians 8:3-9 - For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (ESV)

Polycarp 5:2 In like manner deacons should be blameless in the presence of His righteousness, as deacons of God and Christ and not of men; not calumniators, not double-tongued, not lovers of money, temperate in all things, compassionate, diligent, walking according to the truth of the Lord who became a minister (deacon) of all. For if we be well pleasing unto Him in this present world, we shall receive the future world also, according as He promised us to raise us from the dead, and that if we conduct ourselves worthily of Him we shall also reign with Him, if indeed we have faith.

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love (ESV)

In doing so, it is then characteristic of Jesus' servants to love one another as He has loved them:

Matthew 20:26-28 - It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

We pour out our wealth for others, as He did for us:

Acts 2:44-45 - And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (ESV)

But especially to the house hold of faith:

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

And especially to one's own relatives and even more especially to one's own household:

I Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (ESV)

When Jesus washes us we abide in Him - we are found in Him. If we are to be "great" in the Kingdom, then we are to also become servants:

John 13:8 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is our Lord and Teacher - that means we believe and obey Him:

John 13:13-14 - You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (ESV)

The true gospel teaches people to obey Jesus:

Galatians 5:13-14 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 logō): **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** (ESV)

John Piper explains how he understands it that the justifying faith produces love. This is interesting. I don't think it's really possible to truly separate the faith from the love. Through love, faith works. But the love and faith are both in the heart. The works come out of that. Also, I think that the law of Christ is rather Christ's commandments. Christ's law is a law of faith and it's a law of love:

Quote by John Piper Justification by faith alone sets us free from law-keeping [as] a way of getting right with God. This justifying faith is the kind of faith that produces love. This love humbly, sacrificially serves others. Thus loving the neighbour as itself, this love fulfills the law. This faith-produced, neighbour-serving, law-fulfilling love is the "Law of Christ".

I do believe God can set us free from the enemy who steals from us though - but we overcome by keeping faith and obedience and faithfulness with God, exhibiting real faith which is not set on material things, but on God's promises, and on God's heart:

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (ESV)

I also believe the prosperity gospel is no gospel because it doesn't teach love. It teaches covetousness:

Luke 12:15 - And he said to them, Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. (ESV)

I Timothy 6:1-5 - Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. **If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.** He has *an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.* (ESV)

The reason we want to be righteous is so we get God.

youtube.com: God is the Gospel @time: 40 min 42 sec

19.9 Justifying faith should result in going from disobedient to obedient

Colossians 1:21 - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

We are saved to become obedient. Paul says they were **once** disobedient, and a slave to sin. That means also means that now he considers that he is no longer disobedient:

Titus 3:3-7 - For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being **justified by his grace** we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

Hebrews 12:11 - For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:2 - in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

Ephesians 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Now faith in God is more than just believing, it's walking in that belief, and it's even obedience, and out of that obedience comes love.

Jesus will manifest to those who keep His commandments:

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

The followers of Paul the Apostle live by (walk by) faith; those are the righteous ones. It's a lifestyle:

Galatians 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. (ESV)

Faith in God is believing God and walking in that belief and trusting Jesus and obeying Jesus and allowing Jesus to work through you as you believe and obey His commandments.

The ones who remained in the boat and did not step out onto the water did not have enough faith to walk on water. Fear and doubt weakened their faith. Maybe Peter took his eyes off Jesus, and instead focused on the water.

Matthew 14:27-32 - But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid. And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, **command** me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter **got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus**. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, Lord, save me. Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Mark 5:36 - But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not fear, only believe. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:2 - For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

19.10 Obedience is essential to justifying faith

Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness:

Romans 4:3 - For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. (ESV)

Jesus commanded us to believe (**pisteuo**) in Him:

John 14:1 - “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe (G4100 pisteuo) in God, believe (G4100 pisteuo) also in Me. (NASB)

Paul says we must trust (**pisteuo**) in Him:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts** (G4100 pisteuo) him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

Having believed in Jesus, having begun to trust in Jesus, we have become obedient to Jesus. Jesus works on us as we trust in Him even before we understand what He's doing, and we have become obedient because he commanded us to trust Him:

John 13:6-7 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. (ESV)

Abraham's obedience which he had as part of his faith led him to obey:

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:6 - Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,

Hebrews 4:11 - Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Song youtube.com: From The Inside Out - Hillsong UNITED

From the Inside Out (Lyrics) Everlasting, your light will shine when all else fades; Never ending, your glory goes beyond all fame; And the cry of my heart is to bring you praise; From the inside out; Lord my soul cries out

And willing to do the will of God must become 'doing'.

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but **whoever does the will of God abides forever**.

John 7:17 - If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

pisteuo = to have faith upon

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

John 3:14-16 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

John 3:16 - "For God so loved (G25 agapao) the world (G2889 kosmos), that He gave His only (G3439 monogenēs) begotten (G3439 monogenēs) Son (G5207 huios), that whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in Him shall not perish, but have eternal (G166 aionios) life (G2222 zoe).

1 : 4100 pisteuo pist-yoo'-o

2
3 from 4102; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or
4 thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's
5 spiritual well-being to Christ):--believe(-r), commit (to trust), put
6 in trust with.
7 see GREEK for 4102

We must trust Him and Obey.

19.11 Jesus' odedience resulted in turning others to obedience

Romans 5:19 - For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's **obedience** the many **will be made** righteous.

A process:

- 'Will be made' => Turning people to obedience.

Adam disobeyed, and his descendants become disobedient.
Jesus obeyed, and his disciples become obedient.

19.11.1 Likewise, we are commanded to do the same

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the **Holy Spirit**, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

19.12 It is the mercy of God that we are turned from disobedience to obedience

II Corinthians 10:6 - being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Romans 15:17-18 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to **obedience—by word and deed**,

I think that is the correct way to see the following Scripture:

Romans 11:29-33: For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience (543. *apeitheia - willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience*), that he may have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

The obedient are led by the Spirit of God. But it isn't a Spirit of slavery, it's a Spirit of sonship, where we get to be conformed to the image of Christ!:

Romans 8:12-15 - So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father!

Even Jesus kept **entrusting Himself** to Father God. We should walk in the Truth, walking the Light, while entrusting ourselves to God who judges justly:

I Peter 2:23 - When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. (ESV)

That's what we're supposed to do:

I Peter 4:19 - Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (ESV)

We have assurance in Lordship Salvation because we believe what Jesus said:

Luke 6:35 - But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. (ESV)

Father God makes many sons. For it was fitting that He (Father God), for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation (Jesus Christ) perfect through suffering:

Hebrews 2:10 - For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. (ESV)

He was raised **for** our justification; now in order to be justified by faith, we simply need to put our faith in Him - we need to trust Jesus Christ.

Trusting in Jesus should result in following Him, believing Jesus' words, walking as he walked, entrusting ourselves to Father God who judges righteously.

We have to die to our old self and live for Christ, simply abiding in Him.

II Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

If we walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised, and are doing the will of God, then we would love Jesus and Jesus helps us:

John 8:39-40 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:16-18 - For surely it is not angels that he helps, but **he helps the offspring of Abraham.** Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For **because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.** (ESV)

Mark 3:35 - Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

If we walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised, but having faith in God by obeying Jesus Christ who was raised for our justification then we have Jesus Christ's righteousness; we have the righteousness of faith in God.

Romans 4:22-23 - That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness. But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, (ESV)

And the promise will be ours also, because Jesus is our Lord, and we belong to Him.

Romans 4:24-25 - but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

Even as we are going through hardship for following Jesus, we should rejoice because we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us:

Romans 8:36-39 - As it is written, For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

19.12.1 As obedient children, we are to be conformed to holiness

I Peter 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

Ephesians 5:5-10 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

19.12.2 Illegitimate children are left without discipline and are not sons

Hebrews 12:6-8 - For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises **every son whom he receives**. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which **all have participated**, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

19.13 The measure of what we hear and take heed of and how we hear and let take root in us will be measured to us

Mark 4:24 - And he said to them, Pay attention to **what** you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.

Luke 8:18 - So take care **how** you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."

If you do not take care of **how** you hear and **what** you hear, then ...

Isaiah 6:10 - "Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed."

I think it's important to take in all the words which Jesus spoke which are available to us, and to come to a faith which is able to reconcile faith with works, and law and obedience, and the gospel Jesus taught before and after the resurrection, and reconcile the teachings of the epistles from Peter, Paul and John, and Epistle to the Hebrews.

Matthew 13:15 - For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and **return**, And I would heal them.'

John 12:40 - "He has blinded their eyes and He hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and be converted and I heal them."

Acts 28:27 - For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And **understand with their heart** and **return** (G1994 epistrepsōsin: should turn), And I would heal them."

20 Spirit of Truth vs Spirit of Error

Don't rely on your dreams - they may come from evil spirits:

Jude 1:8 - Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. (ESV)

20.1 Don't believe falsehood

If you listen to someone with a deceptive, beguiling spirit, then the same measure of that would come into you.

Isaiah 30:1 - Ah, stubborn children, declares the LORD, who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; (ESV)

youtube.com: AFreshWord - Important You know, one thing that I can't stand about these familiar spirits is that they usually lead you to the doorstep of destruction. They'll have you moving and doing all these different things just to end up completely destitute somewhere and outside of the will of God. I absolutely hate it. And it's my prayer that you would be completely delivered and if you've been led astray by a deceiving lying spirit I pray that your entire life would be redeemed.

And that would probably affect the truthfulness of your dreams if you have a prophetic gift, but there are other reasons a person may get dreams of falsehood including spiritual attack.

youtube.com: The Crucial Meaning of God's Word - John MacArthur #shorts #bible #christ If you're a new believer or a believer who has not been developed in understanding of the word of God you are susceptible to Satan's lies.

And it's not just misinformation that has some minor consequences. Misinformation from the kingdom of darkness has disastrous and devastating consequences.

So to know the Word is absolutely critical. To know what it means is of course essential because the revelation of God is in the understanding. Let me say it this way: The meaning of the Scripture is the Scripture. If you don't get the meaning right, you didn't get the revelation, you got something else. And there are a lot of false interpretations floating around.

20.1.1 No lie is of the truth

1 John 2:21 - I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. (ESV)

20.1.2 Garden of Eden

Eve listened to another voice and Eve transgressed and Adam transgressed and they became corrupted through sinful desire:

Genesis 3:4-5 - And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods (H430 elohim), knowing good and evil. (KJV)

I Timothy 2:14 - And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. (ESV)

Adam wasn't deceived, and so he must have willfully disobeyed God's commandment for them to not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

That's not a lot of commandments to follow, but he disobeyed God's Law at the time.

Romans 5:18-21 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

God's gift allows us to become partakers of the divine nature, sons of God through Jesus Christ. This involves escaping corruption. We have to go through Jesus Christ

John 10:1 - Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. (ESV)

II Peter 1:3-4 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. (ESV)

20.2 Not all 'spirit' is true

It's false to say that 'all spirit is true' and body and soul are false.

Jeremiah 14:14 - And the LORD said to me: **The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them.** They are prophesying to you a **lying vision**, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. (ESV)

Isaiah 30:1-5 - Ah, stubborn children, declares the LORD, who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who **make an alliance, but not of my Spirit**, that they may add sin to sin; who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation. For though his officials are at Zoan and his envoys reach Hanes, everyone comes to shame through a people that cannot profit them, that brings neither help nor profit, but shame and disgrace. (ESV)

Hosea 4:12 - My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a **spirit of whoredom has led them astray**, and they have left their God to play the whore. (ESV)

Isaiah 30:9 - For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children **unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD;** (ESV)

I Chronicles 10:13-14 - So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also **consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the LORD.** Therefore the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse. (ESV)

Rather we must listen to God:

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting. (ESV)

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. (ESV)

God doesn't lie:

Hebrews 6:13-20 - For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, Surely I will bless you and multiply you. And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

We must set our minds on the things of the spirit and walk according to the spirit. Doing so will bring suffering, for sure, as those who are heirs will suffer with Him. Being led by the spirit involves "putting to death the deeds of the body":

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

God wants us to be sanctified, to repent from sin, to practice righteousness and for us to love our family in Christ:

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

Lamentations 2:14 - Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

God showed to the "heirs" of the promise:

Hebrews 6:13-20 - For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, Surely I will bless you and multiply you. And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

20.3 Spirit of Truth

These do not contradict:

- **Jesus is the Truth**
 - **Matthew 5:17** - Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (ESV)
 - **John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)
- **Jesus' words are Truth and Life**
 - **John 6:63** - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)
- **God's word is truth. The sum of our Creator's word is Truth**
 - The Scripture (Torah) does not contradict
 - **Psalms 119:160** - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (ESV)
 - **John 17:17** - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)
- **Jesus Christ is the Word of God, who has come into the world in the flesh**
 - Emmanuel
 - **Isaiah 7:14** - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (ESV)
- **The Spirit of Truth is the Truth**
 - **I John 5:6** - This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (ESV)
- **Jesus is God**
 - **Isaiah 9:6** - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (ESV)
 - thegospelcoalition.org: How Can Jesus Be Our Everlasting Father?
 - **Jeremiah 32:17-18** - Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. You show steadfast love to thousands, but you repay the guilt of fathers to their children after them, O great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts, (ESV)

Ephesians 4:20-21 - But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as **the truth is in Jesus**, (ESV)

Matthew 4:4 - But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (KJV)

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me **and** does not receive my *words8 has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my **voice**, and I know them, and they **follow** me. (ESV)

Read <https://www.scriptureway.com/home/jesus-is-the-truth>

Quote by R. C. Sproul "Truth is not defined by our own subjective standards; it is determined by the Source of truth **Himself**"

Here is an interesting read with some interesting points. One could use a number of verses to teach "salvation by **X** alone" doctrines. For instance, we could teach:

- Repentance alone from 2 Corinthians 7:10
- Baptism alone from Acts 22:16
 - **Acts 22:16** - And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, **calling on his name**. (ESV)
- The life of Christ alone from Romans 5:10
- The blood of Christ alone from Revelation 1:5
- The word of God alone from James 1:21
- Obedience alone from Hebrews 5:9, and so on.
- The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (ESV)

As the psalmist states, the **sum** of God's word is truth. However, when we make passages fight against each other, we are saying only some of God's word is truth.

My way of thinking of this is: If the Word of God said you can be saved by it, it's true, you can be. But we're supposed to continue in faith, love, obedience, and we **need** to continue. God is able to save a person with X alone, but that doesn't mean we should focus on minimums. Our trust should be on God's Word. We want to be found in Christ. Father God is the one to put a person in or out of Christ.

How does baptism save us? Through an appeal to a good conscience for a good conscience through Jesus Christ's resurrection:

I Peter 3:21 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (ESV)

youtube.com: Why Does the Bible Say Baptism Saves Us? {@desiringGod} @time: 9 min 28 sec ...it's that faith that saves...

youtube.com: Why Does the Bible Say Baptism Saves Us? {@desiringGod} @time: 14 min 36 sec

Faith precedes baptism. That's why I'm a Baptist. Faith precedes baptism and is operative in baptism so we are justified at the very first act of genuine saving faith in Christ. And then baptism follows and preferably would follow soon as an outward expression of that inward reality.

Regarding baptism as a first step of obedience, or as a first step of faith, I think it should be accompanied by faith at the time it happens and people should continue in faith, love and obedience. I wouldn't say that Jesus **couldn't** save a person who was baptised first and then later came to faith in the central tenents of the gospel of Jesus. I would say that a person's first step of faith also might be in confessing sin, or in the taking of the

eucharist/communion, or in other parts of Jesus Christ's gospel. What's essential is that we receive Jesus Christ. I would only encourage believer's baptism, or better, baptism for an appeal to a good conscience with God through Jesus Christ's resurrection.

I don't think that baptism is merely symbolic, but that there is some mystery surrounding this. Me getting born-again was strongly correlated with Noah's flood, and Jesus' death and resurrection, and I believe also seeing my regenerated spirit-man with a dark spot at the rib, correlated with the image of God:

Genesis 1:2 - The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (ESV)

I Peter 3:18-22 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (ESV)

Matthew 3:13-17 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me? But Jesus answered him, Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (ESV)

Genesis 8:10-12 - He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. (ESV)

20.3.1 Jesus is noticeably present with us as we believe and affirm and obey the Truth

Sermon youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit @time: 19 min 20 sec

The work of the Holy Spirit is to cause you to remember Him (Jesus) and with the eyes of the heart **Ephesians 1:17** see Him there.

Matthew 28:20 - teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

Yup, this has been real for me in seeking to be obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit which has included obedience to Jesus' commandments in the face of opposition.

20.3.2 God is not a God of confusion but of peace

I Corinthians 14:31-33 - For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For **God is not a God of confusion but of peace**. As in all the churches of the saints, (ESV)

20.3.3 We should listen to and obey Jesus' words and compare everything with the scripture

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (ESV)

Psalms 119:142 - Your righteousness is righteous forever, and **your law is true**. (ESV)

Acts 17:11 - Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to **obey Christ**, (ESV)

20.3.4 sola scriptura as the source of truth against false dreams and against lies

I've definitely had some issues, but I've noticed that repenting from sinful habits and obeying Jesus helps a lot to deal with that.

On 2 Jan 2023 I had a dream of defending a house with Bible verses written on the doorposts. I didn't know this was Biblical until very recently:

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 - And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (ESV)

But now I know.

I think God wants us to be able get to know His word well because He wants His law on our heart. And God gives us a heart of flesh that fears Him and is able to receive correction from Him.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they **may** walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

He writes His law on our brand new heart which He gives us. How does God write His law on our heart? It happens as God teaches us. For example, we read God's word and come into agreement with it. We hear Christ's voice and trust and obey Him:

Jeremiah 31:33-34 - But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, Know the LORD, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (ESV)

We come into agreement with God. We love His truth. God give us a new heart but then we go on abiding in God's truth. We are taught by God:

I John 1:9 - If we confess (**G3670 homologeō**) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

Isaiah 30:20-21 - And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, **This is the way, walk in it**, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

sola scriptura (by Scripture alone) AMEN!!

For faith and practice, the Holy Scriptures are authority. Not church councils, not tradition, not popes. Jesus used the Scriptures to combat lies:

Luke 4:7-8 - If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours. And Jesus answered him, It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

Luke 4:11-13 - and On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. And Jesus answered him, It is said, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. (ESV)

John 10:35-36 - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God? (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Contrary to Roman Catholics, the Bible Is Our Sufficient Authority

Jesus' warning against forsaking the word of God, the Holy Scriptures, for tradition:

Mark 7:11-13 - But you say, If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban (that is, given to God)— then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: John Piper's Sermon with Scripture only

Prophesy should be tested, prophets should be tested, the spirits must confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus and the message should align with the Scripture:

youtube.com: The Lord Says - Do Not Be Swept Up By The Lie There is a great deception coming over the earth. A delusion which will overcome the minds of men. He who is not tethered to the Rock shall be swept away by it. It is a strong and seductive delusion. Already many have been taken captive by it. Their ears have become dull. Their eyes have become blinded to the Truth. Yet they are convinced among themselves that they have grasped the truth.

20.3.5 Do not associate with people who call themselves believers but are against sound doctrine

Do not greet or associate with people who do not abide in the teaching of Christ, and are in opposition to the truth:

II John 1:1-11 - The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children **walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father**. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we **love one another**. **And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments**; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. **If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.** (ESV)

We must:

- confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh
- abide in the teaching of Christ
- we must walk according to His commandments

– We must love one another as He has loved us

What counts is faith working through love:

Titus 3:8-15 - The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that **those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works**. These things are excellent and profitable for people. But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. **Greet those who love us in the faith.** Grace be with you all. (ESV)

What counts is faith working through love:

Galatians 5:1-6 - **For freedom Christ has set us free;** stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. **For through the Spirit, by faith,** we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. **For in Christ Jesus** neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but **only faith working through love.** (ESV)

Romans 16:17-18 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who **cause divisions** and **create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught;** avoid them. For such persons **do not serve our Lord Christ**, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. (ESV)

We must abide in the teachings of Jesus, believing what Jesus has said, believing Jesus:

John 5:37-38 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not **believe the one whom he has sent.** (ESV)

Avoid people who stubbornly oppose the teaching of Christ:

II Timothy 3:2-7 - For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (5377. *philotheos*), having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. **Avoid such people.** For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. (ESV)

We must not be:

- lovers of self
- lovers of money
- arrogant
- abusive
- disobedient to our parents

- ungrateful
- unholy
- heartless
- unappeasable
- slanderous
- without self-control
- brutal
- not loving good
- treacherous
- reckless
- swollen with conceit
- lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (5377. philotheos)
- have the appearance of godliness but denying its power

I literally have been getting tested with this stuff as I fight against an antichrist spirit. I'd love to be able to say that I have perfect self-control, am holy in thought and deed, etc. and perfectly obedient to my parents. Sometimes, though, it feels as though satan puts me in a choke hold where I need to be a perfect saint to pass all the tests.

I literally feel as though I was just then tested through 3 different people the following passages:

- **II Timothy 3:2-7**
- **II John 1:1-11**

God please help me to pass these tests.

Avoid people who stubbornly oppose the teaching of Christ:

I Corinthians 5:11 - But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

This is about being willing to work or unwilling. I'm definitely willing to work. But not having a job doesn't mean being unwilling to work because a person can will to work but be unable to work for various reasons. Just stay busy. In my case I am in a season of focusing on Jesus after being born-again:

II Thessalonians 3:1-14 - Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us**. For you yourselves know how **you ought to imitate us**, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but **with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you**. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we

hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. (ESV)

Being **willing** to work is important as we are not supposed to be a burden on others.

Galatians 6:2-6 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. **For each will have to bear his own load.** One who is taught the word **must share** all good things with the one who teaches. (ESV)

Accepting support is OK when in need, but we should still seek to bear our own load:

II Corinthians 11:7-9 - Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. (ESV)

20.3.6 The criminal conviction has made it more difficult to support myself and other people in need

Journal <2025-08-02 Sat> I believe that I had to take a conviction in order to remain faithful to Jesus. I feel as though I received a criminal conviction because my right to free speech and the freedom to be a human being with a beating heart was violated when, for example, I was accused of breaking bail due to me posting Reformed-Chruch quiz night results on my blog, putting AI-generated images of strawberries on my own Facebook page, and arranging flowers in flower bed and using that as a display picture, and I was denied being able to communicate with court right up until when I had to decide whether I was going to plead guilty or take the person I proposed to to trial. I had a diversion available, but it was ignored. But there were additional complications. I had been trialing DALL-E and generating artwork. If I did wrong in generating pictures of strawberry cats and putting them on my own Facebook page then what I need is someone to explain to me exactly what was wrong about it, because what I was doing was done in faith and in love, I thought. I think I'd even used an open source model on HuggingFace to do this. I couldn't plead not guilty and take the other side to trial because to do so would not exercising the type of love Jesus wants us to exercise. I believe that the court judge was at fault in saying that I had no right to forgive, when I pleaded guilty and gave him a letter. I think it's sadistic to deny freedom of speech and marriage proposal while elevating the rights of machines above humans and letting machines desecrate what is sacred, for example, pretending a chatbot is a spouse, judge, or priest. Or even marriage councilor.

Romans 13:1-10 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You

shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Romans 12:19-21 - Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

I wonder why did God allow this to happen to me - to be put through hell on earth? It's left me feeling damaged spiritually. Meanwhile, still have not heard the promised testimony of Jesus from Holy Spirit.

I want total sanctification and deliverance and healing.

II Thessalonians 1:4-10 - Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (ESV)

Children of God:

- Do not make a practice of sinning
- Love their family in Christ
- Practices righteousness

I John 3:8-10 - Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.** (ESV)

Believing in Jesus Christ, that is with true faith, faith which loves the truth, we have the right to become children of God. We are given the right to be sanctified, delivered from sin, to be able to love our family in Christ and practice righteousness:

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

This right is not for everyone, but only for those who receive Jesus Christ, who God has given Jesus Christ:

John 17:9 - I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. (ESV)

John 17:8 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. (ESV)

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

I think this reads that we are set free from everything which the law of Moses condemns as sin. So we become able to put the sin to death:

Acts 13:38-39 - Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. (ESV)

Romans 1:29-32 - They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV)

I still believe that faith alone in the heart justifies, however faith in Jesus, I believe, continues trusting Him even with respect to His words, and continues abiding in His teachings. I think we're not supposed to believe in vain, though, but continue in faith in Jesus and hold fast to the gospel and be transformed by His grace to put sin to death and at the end of sanctification, eternal life. And I believe that that faith in the heart which justifies will produce good deeds. I also believe in working faith where faith alone finds its fulfillment in being completed by works. So how to put this... through faith alone in Jesus Christ, in the blood of Jesus Christ, we are able to call ourselves children of God and everyone who does so purifies himself as Jesus Christ is pure, and Jesus Christ's blood washes those who walk in the light with the love of the truth and Jesus empowers us to make spiritual sacrifices that are pleasing to God through faith in Him (Jesus Christ) and Jesus empowers us to fulfill the requirement of the law and all Christians should strive by faith, obediently to Jesus Christ to have the requirement of the law fulfilled in us. I believe that justification by works is contingent on justification by faith. So whilst we can be justified by works, it can't be while denying that we ourselves first needed forgiveness from God through faith in Jesus Christ. So even justification by works happens by God's grace:

Romans 4:23-25 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

Romans 5:18-21 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

We believing on Jesus' name, Jesus Christ Son of God, we have the right to become children of God, and also to love our family in Christ, and to be sanctified and to practice righteousness are also mandatory - both commandments and rights that we have. No-one is allowed to prevent you from obeying God, from obeying Jesus, and we **must** obey God, obey Jesus.

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

We need the Spirit of Christ to be in us. God gives the spirit to those who obey Him, obey Jesus.

Acts 5:29-32 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

As children needing adoption we were enslaved by the elementary principles of the world, fearful people, without God (**Ephesians 2:11-13**), and then we came to know God / be known by God and we then face a battle with the flesh. Having our mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is not a spiritual mindedness, and succumbs to ungodly fear, for example, like when Peter denied Jesus, or succumbs to lies for example, i.e. the flesh doesn't agree with the Truth about God. But we set our minds on the spirit, being spiritually minded and we are able to fulfill the requirement of the law as we do so. In fact, if we start calling on God as our Father, then we have an obligation to think and act like children of God, and God will chastise us.

John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (ESV)

Hebrews 12:4-8 - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (ESV)

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:11-13 - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (ESV)

Galatians 3:22-9 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. (ESV)

Galatians 4:1-9 - I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the

flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

We must be people who love with agape love in order to say we know God, and essentially, this love comes from God. We know the love God has for us and we love one another:

John 10:14-16 - I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

We come to know God, the love God has for us, practicing righteousness, loving our family in Christ, putting sin to death. Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works but is quite related. Obedience is a heart attitude. Disobedient people are unfit for any good work:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

I John 4:8-10 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the **right to become children of God**, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings**, **becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

It's very annoying that my ability to help other people, for example, or to work, or to be married, say has been frustrated. The enemy has been making it extremely difficult to live in any other way than a chaste monk. However, where the Spirit of Christ is there is freedom, freedom to obey God.

II Corinthians 6:4-8 - but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; (ESV)

Nevertheless, I do my best to still help others. While the will is there, the wallet isn't anymore because the enemy doesn't want me to help people.

I'm willing to work and I would love to have a job and I would love to teach but I've been attacked a lot by demons, prevented from teaching due to a conviction, pushed out of churches for following Jesus, had the love of my life taken away from me, and been treated like absolute garbage, coming from such poverty that the poverty undermined my college degree, and my subsequent employment. For some reason it's been far too difficult. Although it is important to get a job, I have to be **fit** and prepared for work, and I'm doing battle against an anti-marriage spirit, and I'm like the person who was recovering at the inn (from the parable of the good Samaritan as Jesus has rescued me). Also, I'm in corrections (<2024-07-21 Sun> so I am being corrected by reading my Bible and studying the Word, so I still feel as though I am in the clear. I understand work is important, and I'm not exaggerating any of this. It will happen in the right order. And any spirit that forces having a job, or especially forces having assets before having a wife I consider to be a spirit of prostitution / people trafficking. It's an abomination to me. This antichrist spirit has also been attacking my family and manifesting within the household. I feel safe calling it an antichrist spirit because as far as I can tell it's trying to eliminate marriage (i.e. rewrite the law of God) and make it so with money a person can have whatever they want, no matter how depraved:

Daniel 7:25 - He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to **change the times and the law**; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (ESV)

I'm still being ghosted by employers - they go silent on me. It seems like everything is trying to prevent me from doing the will of God!

Ephesians 5:5-10 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. (ESV)

We must live in the spirit the way God does, not for human passions, but for the will of God:

I Peter 4:1-6 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. (ESV)

As a child of God I have a right to practice righteousness, love my family in Christ and put a stop to sin. And if people prevent me from doing so, they're acting out of the flesh, or its coming from antichrist spirit, or the spirit of the world.

If a person is convicted as a thief, for example, then they should be allowed to work, but if they're denied work as a consequence of the sentence, then that is quite evil. To simultaneously convict someone and then deny due penance, for example, is unbiblical and very much against the faith:

Ephesians 4:28 - Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. (ESV)

I have wanted to help people but I'm continually being denied work in order to be able to help people! It's really quite evil, actually.

Ah well, even though I'm receiving persecution as a Christian, I still have confidence because I'm walking in the light. Even though the devil attacks me quite often, and pressures me into situations which are extremely difficult to get through on my own, this should be building up eternal glory. I'm also using the opportunity to do battle with the enemy and be sanctified in God's Truth.

I John 4:15-21 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

II Corinthians 4:16-18 - So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (ESV)

It's very unbiblical and is a heinous lie that in pleading guilty that the person is surely admitting blame for all accusations made against them, especially when I was not allowed barely any input leading right up to the court date. It seemed like I was only allowed one of two options "take the conviction (and from the court's eyes admit all the slander against me is true) or dishonour Jesus by not obeying Jesus" and I chose to obey Jesus.

God sees the heart and the true reasons, and I was aware God was in the situation with me. A big reason that I pleaded guilty was that I can't plead innocence to accusations about how someone felt harassed - who am I to say they didn't feel harassed? But I still plead guilty because even 1% guilt regarding the charge is not perfect innocence. Only Jesus in that situation could have pleaded totally not guilty, and instead of retaliating Jesus let his accusers rend his body on the cross:

I Samuel 16:7 - But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart. (ESV)

Firstly, I will say that I pleaded guilty believing I was guilty of the charge in a strict sense, and I still think I did the right thing pleading guilty.

- I was guilty of the charge of harassment as far as giving to Caesar that which belongs to Caesar goes (God as my witness).
 - Jesus caused offense too to people who wanted to put Him to death, and if He were to admit offense, then He would have truthfully admitted offense.
- I was guilty of other things as far as giving to God that which belongs to God goes (God as my witness).
 - I was taken to court while I was repenting from heresy, repenting from sin and trying to do good. In other words I was punished while I had the mindset of doing good and repenting.
 - **I Peter 1:22** - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)
- It was a good opportunity and natural next step to make testimony of Jesus after being born-again, and also Jesus prophetically said this would happen to His disciples:
 - **Matthew 10:17-23** - Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. (ESV)

I was prepared to serve my sentence when I pleaded guilty, and I had selected community service, but was given corrections instead - regardless, the sentence I had accepted in pleading guilty. I was not aware that I would be publicly unlawfully slandered, the slander from the press not being anything to do with my sentence.

A quick search of "pleading guilty in New Zealand" will tell you that it is an admission of committing the offence charged with - well, the reason might be or it might not be that because it depends on what the person's real reason for pleading guilty really was, and there are reasons a person pleads guilty outside of believing they are entirely guilty of the charge along with all the so-called facts, and outside of what Community law NZ says). Also God's Word is much sharper than man's law, so it's to be expected that NZ law cannot model the justice of God's law perfectly, and Christians are supposed to model Christ's love and bear witness of Jesus, not take vengeance for themselves, but to pass forward grace and forgiveness.

Community law NZ Quote "If you plead guilty it means you agree that you did everything the police say you did, as set out in the police "summary of facts", and that you're ready to be sentenced by a judge for it. If you agree with some of what's in the summary of facts but not all of it, make sure you tell your lawyer – they might be able to get the charges or the summary of facts changed."

Community law NZ Quote: "If you plead guilty, this means that you admit committing the offence you have been charged with."

When I pleaded guilty to the charge of harassment I am still in the right to plead guilty - I might be almost entirely innocent of the accusations made against me, but I'm still not committing perjury in pleading guilty because I had other reasons to plead guilty, and insufficient information to plead not guilty because pleading not guilty would be pleading perfect innocence and would be selfish, not selfless, and Jesus has called His disciples to be selfless.

Other reasons I had to plead guilty:

- I was remaining faithful to Jesus
 - I was asked a week before Easter if I would plead guilty or not guilty after someone had sent me a picture depicting Jesus breaking Himself off the cross, and I don't plan on dishonouring Jesus right after being born-again and becoming a disciple of Jesus.
 - **Matthew 24:12-13** - And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)
- I was trying to fulfill Christ's law, bearing the burdens of the other people who had taken me to court.
- I was seeking to do no harm to my neighbour.
- I was seeking to be a peacemaker / take the fall for my neighbour.
- I was repenting from erroneous theology after getting born-again.
- I was repenting from any public endorsement of gay 'marriage'.
- I was seeking to emulate Christ's love to the person I wanted to marry instead of do what is antithetical to Christian marriage, and I felt like that also meant reneging on the marriage proposal and carrying my cross.
 - Doing what is antithetical to Christian marriage would prove me to be not exercising Christ's love, and so, sadly, I had to give up on the prospect of marrying the person I wanted to marry in order to serve Jesus most faithfully and love my neighbour as Jesus loved me.
 - I'd only marry someone who has made Jesus their number one treasure and is abiding **in-Christ** and takes the initiative to confess (G3670 *homologeó*) Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour before people and is unashamed of Jesus and is practicing the passing-forward of Christ's love and is embracing sanctification
 - * At this stage I'd only marry a born-again Christian while keeping my foremost faithfulness to Jesus (i.e. someone who is actively obeying Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, obeying the gospel of the Lord Jesus)
 - * **Ephesians 4:25** - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)
- What is not done in faith is sin. I could not plead "not guilty" as I could not do so confidently thinking it was the right thing to do. To plead not-guilty felt like vindictive behaviour. Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy.
- I was not without fault.

I must obey God rather than obey Christ-denying lawlessness. God as my witness:

Acts 5:29-32 - But Peter and the apostles answered, **We must obey God rather than men.** The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And **we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.** (ESV)

We need to **act out** the truth, like Jesus:

I John 1:6 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (ESV)

I John 3:2-3 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (ESV)

Read desiringgod.org: Is It Ever Right to Lie? | Desiring God

God's Truth is righteous Truth:

Isaiah 45:19 - I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, Seek me in vain. I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 - For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. (ESV)

But to say that pleading guilty is an admission that the full set of facts in the 'summary of facts' which came out the day I pleaded guilty is true is, I think a heinous lie, and my guilty plea was not an endorsement of the slander against me. There's something very antichrist about how the opportunity for "forgiveness" and the opportunity to choose to "take the penalty without accepting the truth of the summary of so-called facts" (i.e. taking the fall) had been squashed out of the court system which was looking to paint one person as entirely innocent and one person as guilty (without a trial). But when the judge read my letter which said that I believe the words of Jesus Christ which He received from Almighty God and that Jesus Christ is the Truth and that I forgive everyone, and want to be forgiven myself, and I want to move on from the person I proposed to and put the past behind me, and I pray she recovers completely, the judge said, "that is your opinion" and spoke a lot of evil slander at me while he was the only one allowed to speak - well I pray God has mercy on him when he answers to the Lord for that. I forgive the judge and everyone involved and ask for forgiveness.

To say that pleading guilty means that the person admits all of the accusations against them and accepts the validity of the summary of facts is not true unless it is actually true (i.e. that the person **actually** accepts the validity of the summary of facts), and for me it cannot be said that I had accepted the validity of the summary of facts but I chose to plead guilty and accept the sentence because that's what peacemakers do. I believe the summary of facts was laden with falsehood, and I was not given enough opportunity to have my side of events entered into court - I was practically silenced by extreme bail conditions that felt like witchcraft (which I told the first judge I stood before on the 3 May, before my sentencing), as being unable to even speak to my lawyer properly or defend myself, I was deprived of using the internet, deprived of phone, computer, etc. and deprived of leaving my house almost right up to pleading guilty, and so it was an unfair conviction and sentencing in my opinion, and in the latter part of 2022 under strict bail conditions I was being obedient to Jesus, trying to bear other peoples' burdens financially, while getting hit with antichrist visions and visions of evading judgement through good works, but I was already born-again with a clean slate spiritually - it was an antichrist spirit which had come against me. Yet I still believe that I was acting in good conscience in God's sight throughout the entire process and even with regards to the charge to plead guilty (I believe it was the right thing to do), but the accusations against me were so blown out of proportion and there was so much falsehood in the accusations against me that it was sometimes very alluring to plead for my innocence, but when things got very tough I managed to resist the urge to retaliate:

Isaiah 51:7 - Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings. (ESV)

From my perspective it is correct to say that I wanted to marry out of a good conscience and out of a place where I would not be enticed into sinning, but the devil tried to make it look like it was evil. By faith Shane, when he was grown up and born-again, refused to go back to living an ungodly lifestyle so he made his first marriage proposal to someone who he had joy in proposing to, someone he had at the time believed God made for him, meaning it was easier for him to not sin, and by faith Shane obeyed God and remained faithful to Jesus in a NZ court room to do no harm to his neighbour, and from his perspective laid his Isaac on the Altar and there was no intervention from God. By faith Shane took a conviction which has made it even more difficult in the eyes of some to get married:

Hebrews 11:24-28 - By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. (ESV)

By faith Shane now awaits the mercy from God for those who fear Him and hope in Him:

Psalms 33:18-19 - Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. (ESV)

Psalms 25:3 - Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. (ESV)

Jude 1:21 - keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. (ESV)

Now I have a criminal conviction and have borne reproach internationally and locally effectively for being born-again of the Spirit, following Jesus and making a marriage proposal, and for standing up for what is right against the spirit of the world that rejects God:

John 14:17 - even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

I had been born-again so I had received forgiveness from God, and needed to pass it on. Also, after being born-again we should continue to pass forward grace, mercy and forgiveness:

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (ESV)

James 2:13 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

In fact, it's clear that we must continue on in Jesus Christ's teaching after having been forgiven, and that includes being merciful to other people, as we have received mercy.

Matthew 18:21-35 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, Pay what you owe. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you. He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, **You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. (ESV)

Colossians 3:13 - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (ESV)

It didn't feel right to push for taking the other side to court over what happened. Taking the other side to court felt like some exterior force was trying to cause a fight between us. What's not done in faith is sin and I couldn't take them to court and at the same time keep a good conscience with God considering I had received mercy from God and had made my fair share of mistakes, even after getting born-again, but especially **before** I was born-again. I don't think it would have been right to take them to court.

Even Simon the magician believed and was baptised but it is evident that even the Apostle Peter recognised that Simon might perish. As far as I can tell Simon had not yet received Holy Spirit. His heart still wasn't right. Just like Simon, we must receive the love of the truth in our heart to be saved. Simon was instructed to **repent from sin.** While true agape love is the bond of perfection, I think the bond of iniquity might mean a love of darkness. Simon had to relinquish his sinful desire. Likewise, the rich young ruler (in Mark 10:17-27) had a love of worldly possessions. We need to agape love the truth and fall out of love of darkness. Even as believers, we need to continue on in the teachings of Christ to be saved:

Acts 8:12-20 - But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip.** And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him, **May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!** (ESV)

Jesus said to these believers that if they abide in His word (and I believe that means keep His word, even in obedience), they are His disciples - so a person can be a believer before they are a disciple. But we're supposed to make this transition:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuó, pepisteukotas) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

I believe that Simon the magician after initially believing the gospel and being baptised needed to continue in obedience to God, continue trusting in Jesus, turn away from wickedness, purify his heart, draw near to God and receive Holy Spirit and be sanctified. We're instructed to "draw near to God through Jesus Christ" to be saved:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:23-28 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

So you see, we must continue on in faith in Jesus Christ, and abiding abiding in His teachings:

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó - value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs - unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina - in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

Also, after being forgiven and received mercy myself, it's certainly not right to be merciless:

Matthew 18:21-35 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, Pay what you owe. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you. He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, **You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.** (ESV)

While I had my own share of mistakes (past mistakes and mistakes at the time), there was an almost complete absence of truth from my perspective in the accusations made against me, and in the unlawful slander made against me after I was convicted was definitely not warranted - it was just pure slander, and very unhelpful, and we know that slander does not come from Jesus. An eye for an eye makes everybody blind. We are commanded to overcome evil with good and love your enemies. But they were not even my enemies. I only ever held love for them:

Romans 12:21 - Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

Matthew 5:43-48 - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

The summary of facts had been updated for the day the judge read it out against me, and I did not know what it was updated with. If I recall correctly, I had entered new information and the other side had entered new information. Even if my lawyer had access to them, there's no way I could truthfully say that "pleading guilty is an admission of guilt to the full set of accusations and an admission that the summary of facts is true" - it was a new document. I do not want to be a liar or a spreader of slander, so I cannot say the lies were true, and I also want people to stop slandering each other, but I still chose to plead guilty. I guess I had to become a bit of a scapegoat. It was my mindset to remain faithful to Jesus and also do no harm to the person I proposed to because I love them. And so Jesus was there watching the event as my Advocate:

John 8:55 - But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. (ESV)

Pleading guilty to a charge can be for the sole reason that a person cannot claim perfect innocence:

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)

I John 1:8 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (ESV)

When obeying man's law means disobeying God we should instead choose to obey God, and disobey man's law:

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

If obeying man's law means doing evil, then I refuse to obey man's law. I found myself being pressured by people around me including the courts into taking the girl who I had proposed to to trial, and I refused to take her to trial or to seek justice for myself, I refused to play the game which the devil wanted me to play, and I took the sentence instead because that does not harm anyone but myself. I do not consider myself to have committed perjury by pleading guilty because, it is grey and even if I am a little bit responsible for what happened, I consider that grounds to plead guilty in court - it's the right thing to do:

Matthew 12:12 - Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. (ESV)

My faith and God's law came up against the imperfect NZ law:

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Proverbs 3:29-30 - Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you. Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm. (ESV)

3709. orgē "Orgē comes from the verb oragō meaning, 'to teem, to swell'; and thus implies that it is not a sudden outburst, but rather (referring to God's) fixed, controlled, passionate feeling against sin . . . a settled indignation (so Hendriksen)" (D. E. Hiebert, at 1 Thes 1:10).

Jesus' *anger* here was a godly grief:

Mark 3:4-5 - And he said to them, Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill? But they were silent. And **he looked around at them with anger (3709. orgē)**, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, Stretch out your hand. He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

Also, the reason to take the sentence can also be to simply not drag things out!

Matthew 5:25 - Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. (ESV)

Senselessly hated and persecuted for correct thinking because I've been taken from the world and belong to Jesus now:

John 15:25 - But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: They hated me without a cause. (ESV)

John 15:18-20 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

Our adversary, the accuser, is literally the devil and the devil working through people, not the people themselves:

I Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

Also, the summary of facts was conveniently changed when I made new appearances in court, and the judge spun huge amounts of slander against me in court, the slander then became international news. He'll have to answer to God for that. The whole thing was antichrist, so I simply made testimony of Jesus in court. There are other reasons a person pleads guilty, and one is that the person is abiding by Christ's law to do no harm against their neighbour, and another reason is to not put Christ to the test by claiming perfect innocence. I was born-again of Jesus' spirit in 2 April 2022, and subsequently charged with a conviction after making a marriage proposal, so the conviction now makes it now more difficult to love my neighbour because it's more difficult for me to provide financial assistance for my neighbour if it is more difficult to have a job thanks to having a conviction. Satan would happily like it if servants of Jesus are deprived of financial income and given a bad public image because then they're less able to help their neighbour or support themself and their family:

Jehovah God please grant us deliverance from this spirit of antichrist in Jesus Christ's name I ask.

I Corinthians 13:1-8 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

Love doesn't take into account wrongs suffered. I believe the NASB is more accurate on this than the NIV. Even if the NIV is right, I can't identify any specific thing the other side of court did wrong to me wrong prior to going to court. However, during and after my interactions with police and court it's different story. There was a relentlessly slandering, antichrist graceless spirit coming out from the other side. If I could identify the specific wrongs or the root causes I wouldn't impute them to them anyway because I forgave them. But there are some very suspect things which happened around around the time I got born-again. The entire thing surrounding getting pulled into court felt out of control, and influenced externally by antichrist spirits. I feel as if witchcraft was performed against me, with the demons harassing me and manifesting through people around me. I feel wronged and my complaint sits in God's courts. Until I am delivered, my complaint remains in God's courts. In summary, it feels like God made me born-again into LGBT GPT Neuralink demons-everywhere world. I proposed to the love of my life and God allowed all the demons attack me unceasingly for 2 years, not only destroying that but allowing the demons to cause corruption and defilement in my body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit and I expect God to rectify this somehow because an injustice has happened:

I Corinthians 13:5 - does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account (*logizetai*) a wrong suffered, (NASB)

I believe the NASB in saying that "*love does not take into account (*logizetai*) a wrong suffered*" is more accurate than the NIV which says "*keeps no record of wrongs*".

I Corinthians 13:5 - It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (NIV)

However, the NASB in this instance I think is wrong about love not being provoked. Love is sometimes provoked, since God is love and love comes from God, but love isn't easily provoked to anger. God's anger here was for their overall benefit:

Deuteronomy 9:7 - Remember and do not forget how you **provoked the LORD your God to wrath** in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. (ESV)

I Corinthians 13:5 - Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is **not easily provoked**, thinketh no evil; (KJV)

We should be imitators of God's love:

Psalms 103:8 - The LORD is **merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.** (ESV)

Ephesians 5:1-2 - Therefore **be imitators of God, as beloved children.** And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (ESV)

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

Love your enemies as well as your friends. Be like Your Heavenly Father. Be perfect. Love (25. *agapaó*) your enemies means "treasuring your enemies" and looks like not repaying evil for evil. It sometimes looks like refusing to do evil and instead doing good to those who do you harm, taking the initiative in overcoming evil with good:

Matthew 5:43-48 - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Proverbs 25:21-22 - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. (ESV)

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Jesus' *anger* here was a godly grief:

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The Pharisees here trying to outlaw Jesus' disciples from acting lawfully and trying to outlaw deeds of mercy:

Matthew 12:1-14 - At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath. He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath. He went on from there

and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?—so that they might accuse him. He said to them, Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. Then he said to the man, Stretch out your hand. And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. (ESV)

Mark 2:23-28 - One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, **his disciples began to pluck heads of grain**. And the Pharisees were saying to him, Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath? And he said to them, Have you never read what David did, **when he was in need and was hungry**, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him? And he said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath. (ESV)

What we're supposed to do is not bear a **grudge** against our **neighbour / the sons of our own people**:

Leviticus 19:18 - **You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD. (ESV)

I forgive my neighbour but I don't forgive demons, satan or antichrist:

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

Whatever happened, I maintain there were external influences which resulted in going to court, and I give the benefit of the doubt that the other side of court were not directly responsible. I had certainly never considered them my adversaries.

God will give ultimate justice for his servants:

Luke 18:7-8 - And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? , Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (ESV)

Proverbs 17:15 - He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an **abomination to the LORD.** (ESV)

So repent and forgive your neighbour in Christ and speak truth to one another:

Mark 1:15 - and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:2 - preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, and exhort**, with complete **patience** and teaching. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:25 - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)

We must obey God first and be faithful to God first rather than men.

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

Galatians 6:1-10 - Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.** (ESV)

What matters is a "new creation", faith working through love and keeping the commandments of God. Amen.
On 2 Jan 2023 I had a dream of defending a house with Bible verses written on the doorposts.

In my case I am in a season of focusing on Jesus after being born-again and obediently focusing on the Scriptures:

Luke 10:38-42 - Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me. But the Lord answered her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her. (ESV)

<2024-07-21 Sun> On the topic of Mary and Martha,

I have been attacked by "new-creation-denying" spirits which forget I was born-again to quickly remind me that I'm not employed - I get this harassment from people from time to time.

As the Apostle Paul asks, "Let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." I had a stigmata too I believe. But this me begging for people to for the sake of the cross of Christ just let me have some grace, as I have almost traumatic graceless experiences exclusively for most of my life, so please for the sake of the cross and for love of Jesus cut me some slack as I have also cut others slack in obedience to Jesus as He made me born-again. It's my turn to get born-again; and I would appreciate not being crucified immediately. The reason I have experienced hostility is for following Jesus, repenting, etc. and being obedient to Jesus. Thanks.

Galatians 6:14-17 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on **let no one cause me trouble**, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. (ESV)

Jesus still refers to new disciples as "little ones". Disciples have been obediently following Jesus:

Luke 14:26-33 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate (3404. *miseó*, 3404 *miséō* – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

Look, here's a blessing for loving Jesus and not being an enemy of the cross:

Matthew 10:40-42 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. (ESV)

Disciples of Jesus carry their cross and face tribulation:

Acts 14:22 - strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Jesus, on His cross said, "I thirst.":

John 19:28 - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), I thirst. (ESV)

Matthew 5:12 - Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2-6 - **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)

[youtube.com: Hell and Heaven Are at Stake with Money: Galatians 6:6-10, Part 1 @time: 5 min 5 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdXzJyfjwUo&t=340s)

It's a spirit of "getting a job" taking precedence over "focusing on Jesus and obeying Jesus spirit" right after getting born-again, when Jesus wants me to focus on Him. I get this stuff attacking me in my sleep too, i.e. mocking me too by suggesting working for Neuralink, for example.

I am very much all for getting a job and bearing my own load, however I'm definitely not in the season to get a job.

As Paul said, "From now on **let no one cause me trouble**, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus."

So have some respect, please people.

Me working right now would be like telling the person in the story of the good Samaritan who was beaten on the side of the road, as he is still in recovery to get a job, which is pure insanity.

I had to receive a criminal conviction in obedience to Jesus, putting the needs of someone first who I love, thus forfeiting my ability to get suitable work easily, and I'm in a completely new season of my life where I am focusing on Jesus.

The conviction and press has made it more difficult to bear my neighbour's burdens because now, being more difficult to earn money, makes it more difficult to give to those in need, and meet the needs of my family. For the powers that be to force me into the situation to give me a criminal conviction was very anti-christ, and what I mean by anti-christ is like "punishing Christ" or disciples of Christ for being Christlike, and furthermore preventing them from continuing to spread love and mercy.

So in Jesus Christ's name I rebuke the antichrist spirit which specifically has:

- prevented me from marrying, before and after getting born-again
- depriving me of suitable work, before and after getting born-again

- punishing me for acting in love

I work very hard, and after being born-again I have encountered a lot of resistance by a spirit which keeps accusing me of needing to have a job, or I'm not a Christian, while being in corrections.

It's a very anti-Mary, pro-Martha spirit in a situation which is the same as the one Mary and Martha were in. In that situation, Mary was in the right to listen to Jesus. That is my situation, so by focusing on Jesus, I am doing the correct thing, but this antichrist spirit has been opposing that.

Deuteronomy 24:5 - When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken. (ESV)

Luke 5:33-35 - And they said to him, The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink. And Jesus said to them, Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

I would love to be working, but I was getting harassed by the work spirit even quickly after being born-again, and the correct thing to do then is to be focused on Jesus, even giving away all possessions and following Jesus, so to say, "Get a job and focus on making money" instead of focus on and follow Jesus is totally antichrist.

Also, right now I'm in corrections on a sickness benefit as I have been getting harassed by demons nearly every night, and tested throughout the day, as I try to do good works, and even harassed by demons through other people very frequently.

Last year I had a vision last year of defending my house with Bible verses, so it's very clear to me that I'm in a situation where I must be focused on being corrected theologically and behaviorally and a job will happen when I'm ready for it, or when God wants me to get a job, since the Holy Spirit has taken over ownership of my life and has started running my life.

So I just rebuke that antichrist spirit which has been harassing me regarding that in Jesus Christ's name, and I'll get a job when I am delivered and fit for work.

It's literally satan attacking me, and I'm just sick and tired of it. I guess the reason I'm being attacked is because God made me born-again, has me learning the Bible in corrections, focusing on Him and God has been raising me up for His purposes.

The truth of the matter is I am not lazy. Leading up to being born-again, throughout 2021 I was extremely productive doing what I thought at the time was important work for the good of society whilst being completely content, having met the person I wanted to marry, I was in peace and joy.

There was a time for that research and my work served its purpose in its time.

Something the enemy has robbed from me is the ability to work contentedly, by undermining my joy.

- 1 Dear Heavenly Father, Jehovah God,
- 2 please, God, in Jesus Christ's name please help me.
- 3 Please, God, actually prevent people from heaping heavy burdens on me which I can't carry.
- 4 I'm inundated, as this antichrist spirit continues to attack me, steal from me, take my joy, make
- 5 Please help me and those around me to fulfill Christ's law, which is to bear one another's burdens
- 6 Please help people to learn from Jesus as He carried our burdens to the end, so that we can be str
- 7 In Jesus Christ's name, I ask,
- 8 AMEN!!

John 19:28 - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), I thirst. (ESV)

Psalms 69:21 - They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. (ESV)

Galatians 1:8-9 - But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Greet those who love us in the faith:

Titus 3:14-15 - And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. (ESV)

I received deliverance last night on 10 Aug 2024.

On 3 April 2022, one day after being born-again of the Spirit, there was this message. Amen and Amen to what my pastor has said here:

[youtube.com: Dunedin City Baptist Church - 3/4/2022 @time: 59 min 59 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfzrXWzgjU)

I had thought that what had happened regarding my first ever marriage proposal was God's grace to me but because I took a stand for Jesus and to repent from error, the enemy tried to quench the Holy Spirit.

I feel like the grace which I received the enemy tried to rob from me, and tried to make marriage look evil, when marriage proposal is good.

Daniel 7:25 - He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (ESV)

Anyway I have written this - it's my testimony along with Bible study:

<https://semiosis.github.io/>

Romans 1:17 - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, The righteous shall live by faith. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 24:5 - When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken. (ESV).

I don't want to say something good was bad, etc. Truth matters, and I still hold to having forgiven the other side of court as I have prayed last night, however, I'll never be prepared to say what is good is evil when it comes to God's law. Marriage is good and the marriage proposal was good.

Proverbs 18:22 - He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD. (ESV)

Romans 12:9 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (ESV)

Romans 14:16 - So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. (ESV)

Jesus has to be our number 1 agape love. Christians should marry Christians. I know that obedience to Jesus Christ's commandments is very important for salvation. Jesus Christ's rules we are very much encouraged to get to know Him and have our souls sanctified in genuine agape love.

I'm committed to just moving forward and waiting on Jesus to speak to me regarding it or there's no change in my decision to renege on the marriage proposal. I want to be found blameless in this situation, like Noah, and don't want anyone to get hurt.

I think this passage must be given consideration because all scripture is useful for correction and training in righteousness. In my circumstance, I should endeavour to be faithful and obedient to Jesus:

Genesis 6:1-9 - When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years. The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. (ESV)

II Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

Watch youtube.com: How to Find a Wife {@Onesoul1.2}

And the saving gospel word of Truth is known in the heart and it is a personal truth that is aligned with God's Truth:

Hebrews 10:22 - let us draw near with a **true heart** in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (ESV)

Luke 8:12 - The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (ESV)

What has come against me is a spirit of slander (and a spirit of adultery, and of disobedience to Christ, and of unrepentance, and of theft, and of replacing genuine love and genuine obedience to God's commandments with AI and of trusting AI over trusting God's precepts, and of replacing God's precepts with man's commandments, and spirits of other things) which had entered the church, which the Holy Spirit inspired me to write about, and the Holy Spirit also inspired me to write about God's law on my heart - and that spirit of slander came against me when I made testimony of Jesus in court in both repenting of theological error as Isaiah 7 and Paul speaks about - throwing out the evil and holding fast to the good as Bruce Elder spoke about too. The marriage proposal was good and it's not getting thrown out.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220703044748/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/the-tapestry-of-truth/>

Matthew 15:18-21 - But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone. And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. (ESV)

So I think that after I was born-again and given a clean heart and full assurance of faith and being made spiritually regenerate, I was learning from the word, my conscience felt very clean, and as I was trusting Jesus' words, in putting Jesus' words into practice, and having my soul purified through obedience to the Truth for a sincere love of my family in Christ, hordes of demons came against me to

not allow me to marry unless I endorsed sexual immorality. The majority of the spiritual attack I've received has opposed the sanctification of the soul of myself and others around me who call themselves Christians.

I Corinthians 7:2 - But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. (ESV)

Matthew 19:6 - So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. (ESV)

My baptism in the Holy Spirit recorded:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220702053809/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/astral-projection-project>
Born-again:

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20220402091720/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/astral-project>
- **Exodus 12:1-2** - The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. (ESV)

Meeting with the Holy Spirit:

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20220503030344/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/astral-project>
- **I John 5:20** - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (ESV)

20.3.7 False adversaries and the real adversary

I've been getting dreams and visions of my old friends portraying several of them to be my adversaries, as if I ever had any problem with them, which I didn't. I got another one even today <2024-10-20 Sun> of someone I always considered to be a friend, but before I was born-again a spirit of murder working through her Muslim friend got her to yell at me saying it would string me up and hang me on the balcony - definitely not a spirit that comes from God.

I've noticed that before I was born-again, the devil was causing this type of thing to happen where I never held grudges against certain people, but other people began saying things like, "I have to take X person's side." But to me there was never a side. After I've been born-again, I've seen similar stuff in dreams and visions. But what is really going on, I believe is that the devil, Satan, '**the**' adversary, '**our**' adversary has been doing this.

I Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. **Your adversary the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (ESV)

We overcome the enemy. Jesus Christ is from the beginning:

I John 2:14 - I write to you, fathers, because you **know him who is from the beginning**. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. (ESV)

The JWs have to really believe this if they want to overcome the enemy. Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus is God. Jesus is the Son of God. Father God is also God:

John 1:1-5 - **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (ESV)

Holy Spirit is God. Not merely an active force:

Genesis 1:1-2 - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (ESV)

Revelation of John 12:11 - And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (ESV)

20.3.8 Jesus is giving us perspective.

We should have a healthy fear of God:

Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (ESV)

And we should also recognise that God values us:

Matthew 10:29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (ESV)

Jesus' words are like a **sword**:

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

We may be tested even through our own household. We must confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus and keep Him as our number 1 agape love (treasure). We are tested through God's Word:

Matthew 10:32-37 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

We must keep Jesus' Words and sayings and commandments:

John 14:21-23 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (ESV)

There's only peace "in Christ". Jesus has not come to bring peace on Earth, but a sword:

Matthew 10:32-37 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that **I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.** For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

It's serious business because following Jesus means we have to choose Him over following the way of the world:

Matthew 10:38 - And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

The stakes do get really high and we are tested on where our allegiance lies:

Matthew 10:39-40 - Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. (ESV)

Jesus does respect people who practice righteousness. Holding faith in Jesus and practicing love and holiness should go hand-in-hand:

Matthew 10:41-42 - The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. (ESV)

20.3.9 Do God's will - follow Jesus in truth, and be obedient to God to combat falsehood

John 7:17-19 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me? (ESV)

20.3.10 Pay attention to promptings from the Holy Spirit

youtube.com: C.S. Lewis - God is guiding our lives to the best path @time: 17 min 23 sec These signs were divine confirmations that God was with Gideon in his mission. Likewise, pay attention to the visions, dreams and the impulses of the Holy Spirit in your life.

20.4 Spirit of Error

- Contradicts Jesus
- Contradicts Scripture
- Contradicts God's Word

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

Watch youtube.com: 10 Lies From the Pulpit {@forhisnamesake}

II Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (ESV)

10 lies refuted by Scripture:

- **Lie 1:** "*There is no hell*"
 - Refutation: **Matthew 25:41** - Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (ESV)
- **Lie 2:** "*God makes mistakes*"
 - Refutation: **Psalms 18:30** - This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. (ESV)

- Refutation: **Deuteronomy 32:4** - The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. (ESV)
 - Refutation: **Numbers 23:19** - God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? (ESV)
- **Lie 3:** *"Everyone is good"*
 - Refutation: **Romans 3:23** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)
 - Refutation: **Matthew 19:17** - And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. (ESV)
 - Refutation: **Romans 5:8** - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)
- **Lie 4:** *"Bad things don't happen to Christians"*
 - Refutation: **I Peter 4:12** - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (ESV)
 - Refutation: **John 16:33** - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)
- **Lie 5:** *"Keep sinning. After all Jesus died once for all our sins, past, present and future"*
 - Refutation: **Hebrews 10:26-27** - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. (ESV)
 - Refutation: **I John 3:7-10** - Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)
- **Lie 6:** *"Jesus is not God"*
 - Refutation: **Matthew 1:23** - Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us). (ESV)
 - Refutation: **John 10:30** - I and the Father are one. (ESV)
 - Refutation: **John 8:58** - Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. (ESV)
 - Refutation: **Exodus 3:14** - God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And he said, Say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. (ESV)
- **Lie 7:** *"You 'have' to be baptised in order to be saved"*
 - Refutation: **Acts 16:30-31** - Then he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. (ESV)

- * But I believe indeed baptism does save, but supposed to be coupled with believing in Jesus, calling on His name and turning away from our sins.
- * If we resist the Holy Spirit with disbelief/disobedience, then the baptism may not save, but I'm not the judge on that.
- **Lie 8:** "*We are in control of our own destiny*"
- Refutation: **Job 14:5** - Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass, (ESV)
- Refutation: **Jeremiah 10:23** - I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. (ESV)
- Refutation: **Proverbs 16:9** - A man's heart plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. (engbsb2020eb)

- **Lie 9:** "*People have a chance to repent once they are in hades*"
- Refutation: **Luke 16:26-31** - And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us. And he said, Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment. But Abraham said, They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them. And he said, No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent. He said to him, **If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.** (ESV)
- **Lie 10:** "*The church is [merely] about your [emotional] needs being met and [can] put teaching aside teaching. Come to the church to cry out to the Lord all your things that you're going through, that's all it's about*"
- Refutation: **Romans 6:17-18** - But thanks be to God, that **you who were once slaves of sin have become *obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed*, and, **having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.** (ESV)
- Refutation: **I Peter 2:2-3** - Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. (ESV)

* Yes, the milk is essential.

- Refutation: **Hebrews 5:12-14** - For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for **everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.** But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (ESV)

Here another one:

- **Lie 11:** "*Love has nothing to do with duty*"
- Refutation: **Ecclesiastes 12:13** - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)
- Refutation: **Matthew 22:36-40** - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

Please go to a church that is Biblically sound.

20.4.1 Don't believe lies nor even listen to false dreams from false prophets and diviners

Zechariah 10:2 - For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd. (ESV)

Jeremiah 23:25-28 - I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed! How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? **Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully.** What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. (ESV)

Woe to the shepherds who strengthen the hands of evildoers so that no one turns from his evil. We should be encouraging turning away from sin and encouraging abiding by Christ's teachings:

Jeremiah 23:14 - But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; **they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his evil;** all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah. (ESV)

They continually say to those who despise the word of the LORD, "It shall be well with you." They preach a watered down gospel:

Jeremiah 23:17 - They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, It shall be well with you; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, No disaster shall come upon you. (ESV)

Zechariah 10:2 - For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd. (ESV)

They preach against repentance from sin:

Jeremiah 23:1-40 - Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: The LORD is our righteousness. Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt, but As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them. Then they shall dwell in their own land. Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, because of the LORD and because of his holy words. For the land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land mourns, and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course is evil, and their might is not right. Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their evil, declares the LORD. Therefore their way shall be to them like slippery paths in the darkness, into which they shall be driven and fall, for I will bring disaster upon them in the year of their punishment, declares the LORD. In the prophets of Samaria I saw an unsavory thing: they prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray. But in the prophets of Jerusalem I

have seen a horrible thing: **they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his evil;** all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah. Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: Behold, I will feed them with bitter food and give them poisoned water to drink, for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has gone out into all the land. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. **They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, It shall be well with you; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, No disaster shall come upon you.** For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds. Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed! How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? **Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully.** What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another. Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, declares the LORD. Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD. When one of this people, or a prophet or a priest asks you, What is the burden of the LORD? you shall say to them, You are the burden, and I will cast you off, declares the LORD. And as for the prophet, priest, or one of the people who says, The burden of the LORD, I will punish that man and his household. Thus shall you say, every one to his neighbor and every one to his brother, What has the LORD answered? or What has the LORD spoken? But the burden of the LORD you shall mention no more, for the burden is every man's own word, and you pervert the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God. Thus you shall say to the prophet, What has the LORD answered you? or What has the LORD spoken? But if you say, The burden of the LORD, thus says the LORD, Because you have said these words, The burden of the LORD, when I sent to you, saying, You shall not say, The burden of the LORD, therefore, behold, I will surely lift you up and cast you away from my presence, you and the city that I gave to you and your fathers. And I will bring upon you everlasting reproach and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten. (ESV)

Lamentations 2:14 - Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading. (ESV)

Jeremiah 27:9 - So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your fortune-tellers, or your sorcerers, who are saying to you, You shall not serve the king of Babylon. (ESV)

Jeremiah 29:8 - For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, (ESV)

Loving God and one another is our duty:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

When it comes to being an elder in a church, an "undershepherd" of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, God wants them to undertake this task **willingly**, voluntarily, not out of greed for some personal gain, but seeking the glory that God gives which glorifies God through Jesus Christ which is not a self-seeking seeking at all. The task involves leading by example, not lording over God's heritage, but being an example to the flock:

I Peter 5:1-4 - The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, **not by constraint (G317 anagkastós, involuntarily), but willingly;** not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (KJV)

I Peter 5:1-3 - As a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings, and a partaker of the glory to be revealed, I appeal to the elders among you: Be shepherds of God's flock that is among you, **watching over them not out of compulsion, but because it is God's will;** not out of greed, but out of eagerness; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (engbsb2020eb)

Romans 2:6-8 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

I Peter 5:4 - And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (ESV)

20.4.2 Heretical apocryphal 'gospels'

There's too much in the so-called gospels of Thomas and Philip which seem to be antithetical to the sound words and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, so I renounce any public endorsement of them, as they seem both to be books which may have been written to mislead Christians.

There is also much in them which is contrary to much of what the Apostle Paul has written.

Also, I can't agree currently with the Thomas 77 logion and one main reason is it seems to me that there is still a lot of evil in the world and anti-christ sentiment.

From my perspective it still seems like there is a lot of anti-Jesus sentiment out there, so I personally do not yet see everything in subjection to him; i.e it seems to me there is still a lot of rebellion against Christ. God's the judge, not me:

Hebrews 2:7-9 - You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (ESV)

From my perspective, I am very reluctant to believe we have arrived at the point where we can currently say that God is 'all in all people on earth'.

I Corinthians 15:28 - When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. (ESV)

Habakkuk 2:12-14 - Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (ESV)

All things are under Jesus' feet. God fills all who are in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 1:15-23 - For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And **he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all (G3956 panta) in all (G3956 pasin)**. (ESV)

My main reasons is there is still a lot of sin, idolatry, and lawlessness in the world and a lot of anti-Jesus sentiment. But I still believe that all things **will be** subjected to Him:

I John 3:5 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. (ESV)

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (G1843 exomologeó) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ESV)

In the fullness of time, all things in heaven and earth will be united in Him. But in the fullness of time, the wheat will be separated from the chaff, the sheep from the goats:

Ephesians 1:7-12 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he **set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth**. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and **the government shall be upon his shoulder**, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (ESV)

Matthew 3:12 - His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. (ESV)

It's all been created by Father God, through Jesus and for Jesus:

Colossians 1:15-20 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And **he is before all things, and in him all things hold together**. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (ESV)

In Christ, there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free. Outside of Christ though, is a different story:

Colossians 3:11 - Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. (ESV)

20.5 Renovating vs Innovating

Isaiah 43:18-19 - Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (ESV)

star.net.nz: It's a new day for you

I think God wants us to be born-again and move on from the old life, not asking us to renovate our old life.

I Corinthians 5:7 - Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (ESV)

Matthew 16:25 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

Renovating is seeking to establish ones own righteousness while not submitting to God's righteousness.

Following God's commandments is great - a person can renovate for a while but when presented with the Gospel of Jesus they **must** submit to God's righteousness and have faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:3-4 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (G4100 **pisteuo** has faith in Jesus).

Seek God's kingdom and His righteousness first of all:

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

Renovating (bad):

- Disobedient to the gospel
 - Pursues the fruit of righteousness but trying to establish a righteousness of their own without submitting to the righteousness of God.
 - Working for justification outside of faith / obedience
 - Tries to have the 'holiness' without Jesus.
 - Has not obeyed the gospel.
 - Never died with Jesus.
 - From God's perspective even when they forgive others, it's out of self-righteousness.
 - Forgiving is still good but they still need to submit to the righteousness of God, by believing and obeying the gospel of Jesus.

Romans 4:4 - Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.

The devil does not submit to Jesus. So anyone who doesn't submit to the righteousness of God, instead sides with the devil.

II Corinthians 11:14-15 - And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

Innovating (good):

- The fruit of the Spirit is fruit (it comes after receiving **the Holy Spirit**).
- Obey the gospel for justification.
 - Christ is the head.
 - Died and rose with Jesus.
 - * **II Timothy 2:11-13** - The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.
 - * **Ephesians 2:6** - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
 - * **Colossians 2:12** - having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.
 - Raised with Christ through faith in the powerful working of God.
 - * **Colossians 3:3** - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
 - Now live to serve Christ.
 - * **II Corinthians 5:15** - and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.
 - * **Colossians 3:1** - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
 - Approaches Christ-likeness following Jesus.
 - Having accepted their own need of forgiveness, and having been forgiven **then** forgives others who don't even see their need of forgiveness.
 - **freely** forgives:
 - * **Matthew 18:21-22** - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. (ESV)
 - forgives even those who do not see their need of forgiveness:
 - * **Luke 23:33-35** - And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One! (ESV)

Isaiah 43:18-19 - Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

We must forgive others the same way that God in Christ forgave us.

Colossians 2:14 - by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Luke 11:4 - and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.

It's necessary to submit to the righteousness of God:

- You have accepted that you needed forgiveness from God.
- You have accepted that it's through the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ that God has forgiven you, forgiving a debt which was impossible for you to pay.
- Forgive others freely, knowing you've been forgiven of your sin. Give freely. Forgive the debt of others towards you. That looks like being a scapegoat and letting oneself be fleeced. Imagine you've just been born-again but noone else knows. You know you must forgive others. You know God can see your heart. Now all of a sudden people make these claims that you owe them X, Y and Z. You know you've been forgiven of a debt you were not able to pay. Now instead of contesting others on whether or not you owe them, you give freely. Seventy-times-seven.

Self-righteous forgiveness:

- Conditional forgiveness (not freely)
- Self-righteously forgive others as if you're perfectly innocent and of course they sinned against innocence by sinning against you
- Without accepting that you needed the forgiveness which Jesus has paid through His blood, you then forgive others
 - This tries to establish one's own righteousness without submitting to the righteousness of God
- Believing that you're already good with God and never needed Jesus
 - not prepared to forgive freely
 - but not having yet submitted to the fact that you need forgiveness from God.
 - Forgiving others is good to do, but without having truly accepted that you needed forgiveness yourself, you'd still be forgiving others out of debt to God.
 - I think it's impossible to have Christ's heart without having first accepted being forgiven by Jesus
- Do not accept that one needs or ever needed forgiveness from God.
 - That actually means that person's forgiveness is at least a bit self-righteous (at least from God's perspective)
 - * They do not give out of credit, but while indebted to God, they still give God what is due by forgiving others their offenses towards them
 - nevertheless, a person can never achieve perfect right standing with God without submitting to the righteousness of God through faith in Christ and accepting the atonement which Jesus has purchased through His blood

21 laws

- Law of God

- Great commandments

- * 1) To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and 2) love your neighbour as yourself (the **Royal Law**)

- We should still endeavour to fulfill these by following Jesus:
 - Believe in Him, believe Him
 - Accept the atonement made by His blood, accept forgiveness from God
 - Love one another the same way He loved us
 - Jesus' Spirit helps us to fulfill the requirement of the law as we walk in His Spirit:
 - **Romans 8:3-4** - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

- * Golden Rule

- Living by the Golden Rule (or better, the Royal Law) still comes after having been forgiven by Jesus:
 - **Matthew 7:12** - So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

- * 10 Commandments

- We should endeavour to remain faithful to God with these from the heart:
 - **I John 5:21** - Little children, keep yourselves from idols. (ESV)
 - **Matthew 5:28** - But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (ESV)

- * the 613 Mosaic laws

- **Romans 5:20** - Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, (ESV)
 - **Galatians 5:18** - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (ESV)

- * the law of Christ

- a law of faith
 - **I John 1:6-7** - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

- **Acts 13:38-39** - Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. (ESV)
- **John 15:12** - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (ESV)
- youtube.com: What Is the Law of Christ? Galatians 6:1-5, Part 2
- We seek to love as Christ loved us. God loved us first. Love comes from God. We pass-forward love and forgiveness as we have been loved and forgiven first by God. As I understand it, to be led by the Spirit is when we are applying Jesus' commandments (Jesus is your Lord) obeying Jesus out of love and gratitude:
 - love one another as Christ has loved us
 - bearing our neighbours' burdens
 - obedient to Christ
 - belief in Christ's atoning sacrifice
 - we must forgive one another as Christ has forgiven you or face discipline
 - Required to satisfy the "Christ's love" criteria I believe are:
 - Our first agape love has to be Jesus
 - We love because God loved us first. We ought to love others because we have been loved by God
 - We forgive out of a loving response to God and to others, knowing we have already been forgiven of our debt
 - It must satisfy Christ's law
 - Acceptance comes at the beginning; Jesus gives us the benefit of the doubt
 - Be a servant; consider others more significant than yourself
 - Seek to do not harm to your neighbour
 - Bear one another's burdens without partiality
 - We should endeavour to love not just on occasion, but at all times, continually, as Jesus did, and give our all

OK, so being led by the Spirit, under the law of Christ, we still actually comply with the Law of God, and the law of Moses cannot condemn us.

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (ESV)

So we must have Christ in us, and being led by the Spirit.

So we are under the law of Christ, which is a law of faith in Christ, and led by the Spirit to have the requirement of the Law fulfilled in us.

I'm with this guy:

- youtube.com: DEBATE: Should a Christian Observe the Torah Today? @time: 21 min 24 sec

The lawbreakers will be thrown into the fiery furnace:

Matthew 13:37-43 - He answered, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Romans 3:26-27 - It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

And faith intrinsically includes obedience to Christ.

21.1 The law of Christ

- be led by the Spirit, applying Jesus' commandments (Jesus is your Lord)
 - love one another as Christ has loved you
 - bearing your neighbour's burdens
 - obedient to Christ
 - belief in Christ's atoning sacrifice
 - you **must** forgive one another as Christ has forgiven you

This is interesting. I don't think it's really possible to truly separate the faith from the love. Through love, faith works. But the love and faith are both in the heart. The works come out of that. Also, I think that the law of Christ is rather Christ's commandments. Christ's law is a law of faith and it's a law of love:

Quote by John Piper Justification by faith alone sets us free from law-keeping [as] a way of getting right with God. This justifying faith is the kind of faith that produces love. This love humbly, sacrificially serves others. Thus loving the neighbour as itself, this love fulfills the law. This faith-produced, neighbour-serving, law-fulfilling love is the "Law of Christ".

We have freedom from needing perfect law-keeping as a means of justification (i.e. for getting right with God). But we do need to prefer Jesus:

Galatians 5:13-14 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.** For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 logō): **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** (ESV)

Galatians 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Faith that from a good conscience with God produces Christ's love:

I Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit of God:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! **Let your good Spirit lead me** on level ground! (ESV)

We must have obedient faith in Jesus, as God keeps His covenant with those who put their faith in Him:

Nehemiah 1:5 - And I said, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

We are under the law of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

Faith which produces love:

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

Read biblebrodown.com: Faith Produces Love

Faith which fulfills the law:

Galatians 5:14-16 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 *logō*): You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

We must bear one another's burdens:

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Romans 13:9-10 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.** (ESV)

Otherwise, the Son of Man will send his angels, and gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth:

Matthew 13:41-42 - The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We must forgive our family in Christ:

Luke 17:3-4 - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, I repent, you must forgive him.

Colossians 3:13 - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (ESV)

Song [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com): Majesty{Here I am} - Delirious

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

Thanks to Jesus' endurance, His spirit empowers us to live as He lived, and to be conformed to His image. Jesus wants us to practice His love, His faith, His commandments:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** (ESV)

Christ's law is His torah, Christ's commandments which are summarised in this commandment to love one another as He has loved us:

John 15:12 - **This is my commandment**, that you love one another as I have loved you. (ESV)

We must have faith in Jesus to be justified by faith. God justifies the person who trusts in Jesus and since we trust Jesus we should be doers of Christ's law (which is not outside the law of God, so we are doers of the law), and God justifies the person with the blood of Jesus. If we're trusting in Jesus then we're trusting in God who justifies the ungodly. We're not trusting in God to justify our ungodliness, but to justify us as we keep our faith in Jesus:

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified.** For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

The faith that justifies works through love. Real saving faith that justifies and shows its reality; It has in it the power to produce love.

This love humbly, sacrificially, serves others.

The demons believe and tremble because they don't have the kind of faith that produces love:

James 2:19 - You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! (ESV)

We are supposed to be harmless, innocent like children, but wise and mature, in both thinking and deed:

I Corinthians 14:20 - Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature. (engbsb2020eb)

Matthew 10:16 - Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. (KJV)

Jesus didn't promise an easy life in this world, but He promises we will have tribulation in this world:

John 17:13-15 - But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (ESV)

The peace we have is in Christ, and we have peace with God. But in the world we have trouble:

John 16:31-33 - Jesus answered them, Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that **in me you may have peace.** **In the world you will have tribulation.** But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

youtube.com: Jesus Promise Easy Life for Christians?!?? #Jesus #christian #bible {@ShamounianExplains} God's strength does not guarantee that we will not suffer as a result of following Jesus. But God gives us the power at the time we need it to endure the suffering:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** (ESV)

Our love must be genuine. Obedience to Christ must be impartial and merciful, as God was to us:

James 2:8-13 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: What Is the Law of Christ? Galatians 6:1-5, Part 2

Amen. We seek to love as Christ loved us. God loved us first. Love comes from God. We pass-forward love and forgiveness as we have been loved and forgiven first by God. As I understand it, to be led by the Spirit is when we are applying Jesus' commandments (Jesus is your Lord) obeying Jesus out of love and gratitude:

- love one another as Christ has loved us
- bearing our neighbours' burdens
- obedient to Christ
- belief in Christ's atoning sacrifice
- we must forgive one another as Christ has forgiven you or face discipline

Mercy comes from God:

Luke 6:36 - Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

Also the merciful will receive mercy:

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (ESV)

We need to imitate God:

Ephesians 5:1-2 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (ESV)

Believers must become imitators of the Lord:

I Thessalonians 1:6-7 - And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (ESV)

The in-dwelling word of God works in us who believe/trust as we imitate Jesus:

I Thessalonians 2:13 - And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. (ESV)

Believers turn from idols to serve the living and true God, waiting on His Son to deliver us from the wrath to come. While we are waiting to be delivered from the wrath to come, we serve God, serving Christ, serving the brethren:

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

The law-fulfilling love we produce as a result of justifying faith means we are not **under** the Mosaic law as our actions are law-fulfilling. If we have faith in Christ working through love then our actions are law-fulfilling. In other words, as we follow Jesus we are being led by His Spirit and we are not under the law. As we put our trust in Jesus for our justification, exercising obedience to Jesus, our obedient action is law-fulfilling, and since Jesus is our Lord and Master, we have Him as Advocate and High Priest to God and we can live in peace with God.

21.2 Doing the Mosaic law and doing faith in Jesus are compatible

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. (ESV)

Even as born-again Christians, keeping the 10 Commandments is very important. Just because we may be justified by faith in Jesus Christ doesn't mean that followers of Jesus obey unrighteousness. Followers of Jesus still obey righteousness:

Romans 1:29-2:13 - They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.** For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but **the doers of the law who will be justified.** (ESV)

The righteousness in the actual doing of the law (even doing it whilst not having necessarily heard it) is still upheld but there is now the righteousness that is by faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, keeping the commandments of God and following Jesus are not mutually exclusive. And the law still describes what good behaviour looks like and what bad behaviour looks like. But through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, as we follow and place our faith in Jesus, obeying Jesus to repent from sin and to do good and to pass forward love and forgiveness, etc., we can be justified by our faith in Jesus. As we go on living, we keep our obedient believing faith in Jesus, and no longer want to rebel against God's law. Perfect compliance to the law is no longer the basis of our justification but we seek to not break the law:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

21.3 The law of the Spirit of life vs law of sin and death

Paul seems to refer to the **Mosaic law as the ministry of death**, and Paul refers to the **ministry of the Spirit of Christ as giving life**:

II Corinthians 3:6-9 - who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. (ESV)

The Law (Torah) came in to increase the trespass:

Romans 5:19-21 - For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

OK, so being baptised into Christ Jesus' death,

Romans 6:1-3 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (ESV)

with a death like His,

Romans 6:4-5 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (ESV)

our old self crucified,

Romans 6:6-9 - We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (ESV)

we live to serve God now, but that isn't achieved by putting ourselves under the Torah, but it **does** mean obeying God through serving Christ:

Romans 6:10-11 - For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

We still must cease from sinning, and we must serve God, and follow Jesus' commandments, but we are under grace while we do this:

Romans 6:12-13 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. (ESV)

We are under grace now. We're not slaves to the Mosaic Law:

Romans 6:14-15 - For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! (ESV)

But we are obedient slaves now to righteousness, slaves of God, as slaves of Christ:

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient **from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We no longer present our members as slaves to impurity (sin):

Romans 6:19 - I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. (ESV)

There was no warring between the spirit and the flesh before I was born-again, and now while by the spirit I desire to comply with God's commandments with my mind, the flesh seems to rebel against the spirit:

Romans 6:20 - When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (ESV)

Galatians 5:16-17 - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (ESV)

My past behaviour would have led to death:

Romans 6:21 - But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. (ESV)

So we should be slaves to God now. But this doesn't mean putting ourselves 'under the Torah', because the spirit helps us to keep the higher precepts of the Law, to love God and our neighbour and follow Jesus Christ's commandments:

Romans 6:22-23- But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification **and its end, eternal life.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Clearly there is a difference between actually keeping / complying with the commandments of God and placing oneself under the Torah, because a new creation still keeps the commandments of God:

Romans 2:29 - But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but **keeping the commandments of God.** (ESV)

Also, Christ's law is within the Law of God:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

The Spirit helps us to **actually** fulfill the requirement of the Law. We do this not putting ourself under the Torah as a yoke of slavery, but by walking according to the Spirit, being a slave to Christ Jesus:

Romans 8:4 - in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

OK, so in Christ Jesus, having received the Spirit, being a slave of Christ, being yoked to Christ, we are set free:

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

The Law (Torah), though it still exists, shouldn't be our Master once we are placed into the body of Christ and receive the Spirit:

Romans 7:1-3 - Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress. (ESV)

Having **died to the Law (Torah)** through the body of Christ - **so that we may belong to another**, Christ:

Romans 7:4 - Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, **so that you may belong to another**, to him who has been raised from the dead, **in order that we may bear fruit for God.** (ESV)

We die to the Law to be slaves of God with Christ in us.

If we live in the flesh, then the Law (Torah) arouses our sinful passions:

Romans 7:5 - For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. (ESV)

We no longer serve God under the old written code but we now serve Him in the new life of the Spirit:

Romans 7:6 - But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit. (ESV)

When Paul mentions 'commandment' here, he's talking about "You shall not covet":

Romans 7:7 - What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, You shall not covet. (ESV)

Knowledge of the Torah appears to 'make sin come alive'. Paul mentions the Law (Torah) as including the commandments:

Romans 7:8-11 - But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. (ESV)

OK, so the Law (Torah) and the commandments within are holy and righteous and good, but because of the sin in us, the commandments exposes the sin in us, and even causes it to manifest.

OK, so the way the Law (Torah) currently still exists, while true, is used for us as some kind of means of exposing sin:

Romans 7:12-13 - So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. (ESV)

Sin dwells in the flesh and fights against complying with God's commandments:

Romans 7:14-17 - For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (ESV)

In our minds we desire to do what is right by the 10 commandments / Mosaic Law but our flesh creates problems in carrying it out:

Romans 7:18-24 - For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (ESV)

The tragedy is the flesh serves the law of sin, but in with our mind we serve the law of God, but we actually just follow Christ Jesus who has done it already perfectly, and this means we don't make the Mosaic Law our way of life, but we make Jesus our way of life:

Romans 7:25 - Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

Christ Jesus, our Lord is our righteousness. We serve Christ Jesus:

I Corinthians 1:30 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (ESV)

We want to do what is right and we don't accept condemnation for when sin in our flesh does the evil:

Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Sin in the flesh has been condemned. We walk according to the Spirit:

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

Law of the Spirit: We must set our minds on the things of the Spirit:

Romans 8:5-6 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (ESV)

We focus on the things of the Spirit, instead of the Torah, and we will naturally comply with God's precepts, his law, etc.:

Romans 8:7 - For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (ESV)

We are in the Spirit now, not the flesh, and we have Christ in us, and we are not our own, by belong to Christ:

Romans 8:8-9 - Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:23 - and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:16 - From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. (ESV)

Christ is alive in us. The body is dead because of sin:

Romans 8:10-12 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. (ESV)

We still have to forsake sin, but this isn't by placing ourselves under the Torah. It's by getting baptised into Christ, serving God, being slaves of Christ, being led by the Spirit, doing the will of God that we put sin to death:

Romans 8:13-17 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

Romans 9:30-33 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

Paul prays for Israel to be saved, saying they have a zeal for God, but not by actual knowledge of God:

Romans 10:1-3 - Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

OK, so we need to submit to God's righteousness, and that means having faith in God for what He has done sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sin and raising Him for our justification.

We need to receive the Spirit of God:

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

We can still have the righteousness based on faith:

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (ESV)

Instead of thinking we must make the Torah our way of life, we simply make Jesus our Lord and Saviour:

Romans 10:5-9 - For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (G3670 *homologēsēs*, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (ESV)

This is submitting to the righteousness of God:

Romans 10:10- For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

21.3.1 Lawlessness

I John 3:4 - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Lawlessness, which includes idolatry, seems to be rebellion against God. It's lawless to disbelieve God. It's lawless to disobey God:

I Peter 4:3 - The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. (ESV)

II Thes 2 and Matthew 24 both appear to be talking about the end times and the so-called "mystery of lawlessness":

II Thessalonians 2:1-10 - Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And

then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (ESV)

The "mystery of lawlessness" includes people rejecting God, people rejecting the truth, and as a consequence, the love of many growing cold. It also seems to include the coming of the so-called "man of lawlessness":

Matthew 24:10-16 - And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (ESV)

So "lawfulness" is about being submissive to God's will from the heart, it's being trusting of God, obedient to God, submissive to God:

Matthew 23:28 - So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (ESV)

Disbelief of the truth is lawless:

II Corinthians 6:14 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (ESV)

Refusing to love the truth, practicing lawlessness, people perish:

II Thessalonians 2:3-10 - Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (ESV)

The law is laid down for the lawless:

I Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurors, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

Lawless acts come from unbelief:

I Timothy 1:12-14 - I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

OK, so as a people we are brought to no longer be lawless, and the deeds we committed when we were lawless is what God will no longer remember:

Hebrews 10:16-17 - This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. (ESV)

Jesus was killed by the hands of lawless men:

Romans 6:19 - I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. (ESV)

21.4 The Torah

The Torah is the compilation of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, namely the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Torah is known as the Pentateuch or the Five Books of Moses by Christians.

II Timothy 3:12-17 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been **acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

Keeping to the precepts of the law is great, and making yourself accountable to God with it, is great.

Proverbs 28:9 - If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (ESV)

Even as Christ-followers, living righteously by loving God and our neighbour, and putting a stop to sin is what we are called to do, and the Torah (law of God) teaches us a lot about how to do that:

Psalms 1:1-3 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (ESV)

Here, Paul actually argues **for** keeping the precepts of the Torah, and relates actually keeping the precepts to those who have been circumcised in the heart. Being a 'Jew' inwardly is unbound by time:

Romans 2:25-29 - For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

I believe what Paul says here is that Christians who observe and follow the Torah in faith, not works, not being under it (because it doesn't condemn us while we are under Christ's law), but making themselves accountable to God over it, to receive praise from God, are Christian Jews. But we don't Judaise Gentiles. And we follow Jesus Christ above all. We are slaves to Jesus Christ, not the Mosaic Law.

Luke 16:15-17 - And he said to them, You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

I Kings 11:38 - And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.

youtube.com: Put to Death the Deeds of the Body @time: 44 min 0 sec Inheriting the world is huge and Therefore, don't worry too much about whether you or God's redeemed Israel (not secular Israel) will one day inherit Israel, which they will, along with the world.

22 Whoever puts their faith in Jesus, puts their faith in God

We must follow Jesus, similarly to how the Israelites followed Moses through the Red Sea - it requires action.

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in me, believes (G4100 pisteuo) not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For **I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.** And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

This is similar to how the Israelites trusted in Moses, and they actually were trusting in God.

Exodus 14:14-16 - The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. (ESV)

Exodus 14:21-22 - Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. (ESV)

Exodus 14:31 - When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed (H539 'aman) in the Lord and in His servant Moses. (ESV)

23 As we hold our faith in Christ, living for Christ, we will not have to worry about perfect compliance to the law

Galatians 5:16 - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

Trust, believe, obey, cleave to Jesus:

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

At the end of the day, it's all about trusting Jesus. So belief is the most important part of faith I think. James, like all the other Apostles, still instructs us to obey Jesus - to obey the gospel:

James 1:21-24 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. (ESV)

Doing the law is actually OK - it's compliance, and it's honestly not bad - there are blessings involved with doing the law.

Without atonement, the law will begin to hurt us as we sin. We need to hold faith in Jesus:

Romans 7:10 - The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. (ESV)

As we walk in the light, as He is in the light, that is in the Truth, walking in, believing, professing and obeying Jesus Christ in Truth, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin:

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

There's nothing wrong with doing what the law requires (God can see):

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers (4163. poiétés) of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

So there is the righteousness that is of 'continuing to do/comply with' the Mosaic law. But the Mosaic law doesn't save. But Jesus does save:

Galatians 3:12 - But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them shall live by them. (ESV)

And there is the righteousness that is of 'holding faith' with God; This is still possible while doing the law:

Romans 9:30-33 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

The righteousness of 'holding faith' with God is where we believe God, trust God, hold onto His promises, and obedience naturally comes out of trusting God, but it's trusting God first and foremost, and we trust God that Jesus is propitiation for our sin as we hold faith in Jesus:

Hebrews 10:38 - but my righteous one shall live by faith, **and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.** (ESV)

It's interesting here in I Cor 6:9-12 that Paul mentions in this order, **1st washed, 2nd sanctified, 3rd justified** because if Paul wanted to make it really clear that justification precedes sanctification then it would seem more natural to put justified **first**. I am of the belief that we hold our faith in Jesus, trusting in Him and loving the Truth, and God who sees the heart justifies us, but that's something that God does, and what we're supposed to do is hold our faith in Jesus, and we know that God justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Anyway, this verse shows that having been washed and sanctified (to the point where he is no longer practicing sinful things which lead to death) and justified, these people no longer practice the lawlessness which he described. It shows that washed, sanctified and justified people do not practice the unrighteous things which prevent a person from inheriting the kingdom of God. Paul also says that all things are lawful for him but not all things are helpful and that he will not be enslaved by anything. It shows that there are still things which we shouldn't do as Christians, things which prevent us from inheriting the Kingdom of God.

And in the Kingdom of God, people serve Jesus Christ, even those who inherit the Kingdom of God. Jesus sets us free from serving sin as our master, and sets us free from the Law as our master to serve Jesus as our Master. So those sinful things enslave people, and those who are enslaved to such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

John 8:35 - The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (ESV)

I Cor 6:9-12 is really emphasising the importance of maintaining that Jesus has set us free from slavery, even of having the law as master over us, in order to be found in Him, serving and loving Him - holding faith in Him, and we will naturally obey Him if we truly do trust Him, and our justification comes from holding faith in Jesus. So there is real freedom in Christ Jesus, freedom from condemnation, but we should not use our freedom to become enslaved by sin.

I Peter 2:16 - Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. (ESV)

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (ESV)

I believe Paul says all things are lawful for **him** because He serves Christ. He's been washed and sanctified (to the point where he is no longer practicing sinful things which lead to death) and He's actively serving Christ and Christ is directing him and he's being led by the Holy Spirit as an ambassador, he is following Jesus and thus he is not under the law, but instead of the law being his master, Christ is his Master; thus Paul is under the law of Christ.

But it is certainly possible during this life to arrive at the point where you can say you no longer practice those sinful things which would have lead to death.

Paul still warns against sinful practices which we must stop because they are not helpful and they are enslaving and those who practice them will not inherit the kingdom of God. And inheriting the kingdom of God also means eternal life:

I Corinthians 6:9-12 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. (ESV)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Also, everyone who continues on hoping in Him purifies themselves as He is pure. It's important to purify ourselves, as we hope in Him. At the end of sanctification is eternal life:

I John 3:1-3 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** (ESV)

If we are seeking to serve Jesus and have Him as our Master then we will need to stop these enslaving sinful practices which try to master us, and if we fall short but we are holding our faith in Jesus then we are still acceptable. Jesus has us covered as our Master is Jesus:

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

No-one can serve two masters. We either we obey Jesus or we obey sin. Obeying Jesus, we are saved. Obeying sin leads to death. We **must** obey God.

Luke 16:12-13 - And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

Romans 6:12-23 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Acts 5:28-29 - saying, We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us. But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

[gotquestions.org all-things-are-lawful.html](http://gotquestions.org/all-things-are-lawful.html): What does it mean that "all things are lawful unto me" {1 C}

The NIV translation of 1 Corinthians 6:12 brings out more clearly the idea that Paul is quoting those who objected to his reprimand: “‘I have the right to do anything,’ you say—but not everything is beneficial. ‘I have the right to do anything’—but I will not be mastered by anything.” It seems that some within the Corinthian church were using “I have the right to do anything” as a mantra, repeating it whenever they were questioned about their behavior. Paul responds to their mantra by adding his own clauses: “but not everything is beneficial” and “but I will not be mastered by anything.” Even if all things were lawful, not everything should be done, and nothing should be allowed to enslave us as a sinful habit.

Sermon youtube.com: Do All Things for the Glory of God {1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1}

I think he's also saying people who practice these things are not serving Christ (it certainly doesn't sound like the type of behaviour of people who have been washed and sanctified (to the point where he is no longer practicing sinful things which lead to death) and living to serve Jesus as their Lord and Saviour) so they won't (future tense) inherit the kingdom of God. We have to be serving Christ and then while we are serving Christ, we have freedom. We don't have freedom when we are outside of serving Christ. We have to be being led by Christ to not be under the law of Moses. But also Gentiles should not be Judaised and put under the law of Moses because Jesus has set us free from the law of Moses to serve Him:

- *sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers...*

I Corinthians 10:27 - If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. (ESV)

Jesus' disciples were obediently serving Jesus and while they were doing what Jesus said, the following totally applies. We live in faith as we are serving Jesus:

Luke 10:8 - Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:12 - All things are lawful **for me**, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful **for me**, but I will not be enslaved by anything. (ESV)

Romans 14:17-22 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**. Whoever thus **serves Christ** is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for **peace and for mutual upbuilding**. *Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.* Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. **It is good not to** eat meat or drink wine or **do anything that causes your brother to stumble.** The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. **Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.** (ESV)

Mark 7:18-19 - And he said to them, Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his **heart** but his stomach, and is expelled? (*Thus he declared all foods clean.*) (ESV)

We should seek to build one another up rather than damage our neighbour's faith in Jesus by issues of law compliance. If they serve Christ they are acceptable to God:

I Corinthians 10:23 - All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. (ESV)

The work of God in trusting in Jesus:

John 6:29 - Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

If they hold a good conscience with God and hold genuine faith in Jesus Christ, we don't want to damage that. If they're fulfilling Christ's law (i.e. loving one another with Christ's love), that should be acceptable to the brethren:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

II Corinthians 3:6 - who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (ESV)

I still think that fulfilling Christ's law is important but actually the most important thing is having a saving faith in Jesus which is trusting on God's promises, and we have Jesus' righteousness if we are found in Jesus:

There is a lawful way of using the law, and that's to actually comply with it ourself. But using it to judge others is not being compliant with the law, it's being a judge of it:

I Timothy 1:8 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, (ESV)

James 4:12 - There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (ESV)

But endeavoring to comply with the law doesn't save a person, only having faith in Jesus saves, because through faith in Jesus, we have His blood as atonement for our sin, and through obedience to Jesus, He helps us to escape sinful thoughts and practices, and to behave in a way that approaches God's will for us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbour as ourself.

23.1 We should observe the law - but be a doer, and avoid judging others with the law

Matthew 23:2-7 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: How Preachers Grow Graceless

Proverbs 28:9 - If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (ESV)

24 Mosaic Law, and progressing from having hope in Moses to having hope in Jesus

I enjoyed this video, but I still am of the opinion that keeping the Mosaic law is not necessary, placing oneself under it (to adhere strictly to it) is contrary to grace, but following it by faith (receiving our justification from Jesus by obedience to Jesus) is not prohibited, so long as it is pursued by faith and submitting to God's righteousness:

- youtube.com: Public Debate - Should Christians Keep The Law?
- The law is good and just and Jesus both obeyed it flawlessly, but He also fulfilled it like a prophesy:

Acts 3:18 - But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. (ESV)

Christians follow Jesus first and foremost:

Matthew 12:3-8 - He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, **something greater than the temple is here.** And if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.

Christians wish to comply with the law of God and do so in their mind, but know that the flesh is hostile to the law:

Romans 7:25 - Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

Christians comply with the law by faith, not works:

Luke 6:9 - And Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? (ESV)

God's commandments through Jesus is within the Law of God. Faith in Jesus is how we comply with the law of God:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

Christians do not Judaize (Christians do not instruct Gentiles to conform to Judaism):

Ignatius to the Magnesians 10 - Let us not, therefore, be insensible to His kindness. For were He to reward us according to our works, we should cease to be. Therefore, **having become His disciples, let us learn to live according to the principles of Christianity.** For whosoever is called by any other name besides this, is not of God. Lay aside, therefore, the evil, the old, the sour leaven, and be ye changed into the new leaven, which is Jesus Christ. Be ye **salted** in Him, lest any one among you should be corrupted, since *by your savour ye shall be convicted.* It is absurd to profess Christ Jesus, and to Judaize. For Christianity did not embrace Judaism, but Judaism Christianity, that so every tongue which believeth might be gathered together to God.

I read the following as, as we have faith in Jesus, following Him, where we have fallen short, Jesus has covered us, but we still try to live righteously. We still live with faith in God.

And when we continue to sin, Jesus is our High Priest and Advocate, and covers us, as we continue to have faith in Him.

The 10 Commandments and the 2 Great commandments are special because when followed **from the heart** they show people how to love God and one's neighbour.

And we are commanded (even as Christians not under the law) to love our neighbours:

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (ESV)

I John 3:21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another**, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

The rest of the Mosaic law is still useful for training in righteousness. It shows people how to live in obedience to God and in love for God and one's neighbour. But we are not under the Mosaic law, but we are under the law of Christ. We have faith in Christ.

We can pursue the righteousness that is through faith (G4100 pisteuo) in Jesus Christ:

Polycarp 8:1 Let us therefore without ceasing hold fast by our hope and by the earnest of **our righteousness, which is Jesus Christ** who took up our sins in His own body upon the tree, who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth, but for our sakes **He endured all things, that we might live in Him.**

We must set our hope on Jesus, not on Moses.

John 5:45 - Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. (ESV)

Acts 7:35 - "This Moses whom they disowned, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one whom God sent to be both a ruler and a deliverer with the help of the angel who appeared to him in the thorn bush.

Moses wrote about Jesus:

Acts 7:37 - This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren.'

Moses said we must listen to Jesus:

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 - The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen — just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die. And the LORD said to me, They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. (ESV)

Acts 7:52-55 - Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. But being full of the **Holy Spirit**, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

James, like all the other Apostles, still instructs us to obey Jesus - to obey the gospel:

James 1:21-24 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. (ESV)

We must obey Jesus:

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (G4100 **pisteuo** has faith in Jesus).

(G4100 **pisteuo**) is practicing faith.

This means, yes that by practicing faith in Jesus, we can pursue righteousness - Jesus' righteousness given to us.

II Peter 1:1 - Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

We obtain a strong faith by the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

This requires obedience to Jesus:

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (ESV)

A person must receive the word:

- and not fall away
- and not let worldly desire distract from, and inhibit following and seeking Jesus
- and bear fruit

Mark 4:14-20 - The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

Because we keep His commandments, we receive from him whatever we ask. And our heart does not condemn us. And we have confidence before God.

Hebrews 13:18 - Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. (ESV)

By this we know he abides in us:

- He has given us His Spirit.

I John 3:21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, **we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.** And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another**, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

We abide in Him, and He in us.

We keep His commandments, and we abide in Him:

John 15:10 - **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,** just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

We are in Jesus Christ. Eternal life is in Jesus Christ:

I John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and **we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.** (ESV)

By having an obedient, trusting faith (which fundamentally includes belief) in Jesus, following, we have Jesus' righteousness.

I read this as we are under grace and not under the Mosaic law, but we must bear fruit of repentance from disbelief and sin, and becoming good instead of evil, bearing fruit in our life which glorifies God in our bodies, hearts and deeds:

- obedience leads to righteousness
- slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification
 - at its end, eternal life

Romans 6:13-23 - Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient **from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become **slaves of righteousness.** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as **slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.** When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been **set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

25 Commandments and faith

Faith receives, even the free gift of eternal life from God:

Romans 6:2-3 - By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (ESV)

Mark 1:8 - I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Acts 1:5 - for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. (ESV)

Romans 6:17-17 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, (ESV)

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

Romans 11:29 - For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (ESV)

Isaiah 55:11 - so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (ESV)

Love gives:

I Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (ESV)

Acts 20:35 - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.** (ESV)

There's no law against love:

I Corinthians 13:1 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (ESV)

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)

youtube.com: How to Restore a Sinning Saint: Galatians 6:1-5, Part 1 @time: 4 min 54 sec This is an illustration of why we need specific commandments. Remember last time I argued that it's not enough to say, "Walk by the Spirit." You need specific illustrations, and this (Galatians 6:1-5) is a good example of that. Suppose somebody said, "No, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, gentleness, self-control. If we live by those, we won't get in other people's lives and make lives miserable for them, and bring out their sin into the open. How would you answer that? We would answer it by saying, "Look, the Holy Spirit Himself in chapter 6, verse 1 of Galatians has told us that is not a right application of the fruit of the Spirit. You are drawing inferences from the fruit of the Spirit that are unbiblical; They're unfaithful. That's why we need the whole Scripture, not just vague statements about walking according to the Spirit or walking in love. We need specifics, and this is a specific. If you find somebody in transgression, love is not passive. Love does not turn away. Love doesn't sweep it under the rug." - Rather, you who are **spiritual** (walking by the Spirit) should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. The spiritual person is bearing fruit of the Spirit. They are walking by the Spirit. They are keeping in step with the Spirit.

There's certainly no law against God's commandments:

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

Revelation of John 14:12 - Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

I read this as 'A saint is someone who has faith in Jesus and keeps His commandments (pursuing by faith, not works), and keeps the commandments of God'. A saint is someone who has faith in Jesus and also loves as God commanded.

I read the commandments as being the Great commandments, 10 Commandments and faith in Jesus Christ, and potentially various other commandments from the Mosaic law if you know about them, or whatever subset a person practices by faith making themselves accountable to God.

Keep in mind that God commanded us to listen to Jesus, and Jesus' commandments came from God, so as long as a person is keeping Jesus' commandments, they are also keeping the requirement of God's commandments, but there are many commandments of God, even in the Torah.

Galatians 5:14 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 *logō*): You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

AMEN!! Loving your neighbour as yourself involves forgiving your neighbour, and not bearing a grudge. But people can take this to the point of laying down one's life for their friends:

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

But the Mosaic Law, if it's pursued at all, should be pursued by faith and not by works, and it's not pursued for justification. Justification comes from faith in Christ.

We may abide in Jesus' love by keeping His commandments, and we may abide in Father God's love by keeping His commandments. A saint, I think is someone who does this:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

John 16:27 - for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (ESV)

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

25.0.1 Christians do not Judaize (Christians do not instruct Gentiles to conform to Judaism)

Ignatius to the Magnesians 10 - Let us not, therefore, be insensible to His kindness. For were He to reward us according to our works, we should cease to be. Therefore, having become His disciples, let us learn to live according to the principles of Christianity. For whosoever is called by any other name besides this, is not of God. Lay aside, therefore, the evil, the old, the sour leaven, and be ye changed into the new leaven, which is Jesus Christ. Be ye salted in Him, lest any one among you should be corrupted, since *by your savour ye shall be convicted*. It is absurd to profess Christ Jesus, and to Judaize. For Christianity did not embrace Judaism, but Judaism Christianity, that so every tongue which believeth might be gathered together to God.

25.0.2 Jesus' commandments don't contradict the rest of the commandments

Also God's commandments (especially the 10 Commandments; loving God and your neighbour) are still binding on us - written on our heart when we get born-again and after being born-again we follow them in Spirit, but they don't bind on us in a way that condemns us if we break them, but we **want** to follow them.

Jesus fulfilled the law => We have the Spirit of Christ => We are led by the Spirit and naturally want to follow the law in faith but the world opposes us because when a person actually follows the commandments, they do not lie, do not commit adultery, do not commit idolatry, etc. and that means a person can be 'taken advantage of' by unfaithful people who do not obey God's commandments but exploit others who follow God.

But we neither pursue the law by works, nor seek it to be justified. We are freed from being under the law, and free from the curse of the law to serve and obey God in actuality, being under God's grace.

Romans 7:6 - But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit. (ESV)

I think that being led by the Spirit is still acting in a way that without observing the law is technically compliant with the law, and that is because we are led by the Spirit.

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

By being led by the Spirit, we are not **under** the law. And we have Jesus Christ as our Advocate and High Priest.

I John 2:1 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Nevertheless, when we judge others by the law, we're judged by the same standard.

Matthew 7:1 - Judge not, that you be not judged. (ESV)

But if someone judges you by the law, it seems right to submit to the law, unless it is that you are actually being obedient to Jesus (being led by the Spirit / following Jesus' commandments), in which you should carry on being obedient to Jesus. The law is meant for sinners.

Matthew 23:2-3 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. (ESV)

We then may observe the law and keep it in faith, accountable to God for it, seeking God's approval, and do not teach others to annul even the smallest commandment, and as we are led by the Spirit (obeying and following Jesus) we are not under the law, nor under its curse, and we are not seeking to be justified by the law, and if we are being obedient servants of Jesus then we naturally submit to / comply with God's law.

Romans 8:7 - For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (ESV)

When someone uses the law to judge, comply if they are right, but do not act like the hypocrites.

John 7:24 - Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

Matthew 23:2-7 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. (ESV)

But the mind set on the Spirit does submit to God's law meaning that they may walk in God's statutes, and therefore the mind set on the Spirit is not hostile to God.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 4:13 - And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.

Romans 10:5 - For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

Romans 13:9 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

There's no contradiction between what the 10 commandments say and loving one's neighbour, i.e. for the way in which we must live entering into life.

Psalms 103:17-19 - But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Romans 5:1-6 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through **the Holy Spirit** who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

25.0.3 However, we must submit to God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ - this is what saves

It's not with the mind that a person believes, but with the heart:

Romans 10:6-13 - But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (G3670 homologēsēs, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For **with the heart one believes (G4100 pisteuo) and is justified**, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

But what does it take for the heart to truly believe? Because that's the condition. When the heart truly believes, a person is obedient.

More obedience may still need to take place for that individual to arrive at justifying faith, and God may be allowing you to come to your faith.

It does say '**you will be saved**', not '**you are saved**'.

And the word **confess** I think means to admit with repentance - an admission of guilt to God and change of mind resulting in confessing that Jesus is Lord and that God indeed raised Him from the dead, and that you needed Him to do so, because His name means Jesus (The LORD Saves), Christ (Anointed Messiah, Saviour), Son of God.

If a person confesses this truthfully, they professes that they submit to the righteousness of God.

That's a little bit loaded. It results in a heart growing in obedience towards God, and agreement with God over His precepts and His Truth.

Also, when confessing sin, a person is agreeing with God's precepts.

And I believe it's the resulting obedience to God that ends up saving that person, even if that obedience hasn't produced any work yet other than belief. God is the one that saves and justifies.

Then Jesus hits us with this:

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Ephesians 1:4 - even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

So while we might think we have done something, God had planned it in advance, and the entire thing is grace - but that doesn't mean from our perspective it does not look like we need to obey God - because we still need to have faith and do something. And if we don't do anything then we are asking God to do it for us.

Since the Bible does not teach that all people will be saved because they remain disobedient, I think we should teach people that they should do something; That they should repent from sin and they should repent from unbelief if they want to be saved from sin and leading to death, and if they want to enter into the light of the truth, and enter into a relationship with God.

The root of disobedience/rebellion is unbelief/denial.

John 20:27-28 - Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God!

Jesus helped Thomas believe by giving him a commandment to do. It's implied that Thomas obeyed and arrived at belief:

John 20:29-31 - Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Mark 6:11 - And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.

25.0.4 Abraham's faith is a pattern for us

Abraham believed God's promise of his inheritance:

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the LORD said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (ESV)

Genesis 26:4 - I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, (ESV)

We trust Jesus for our inheritance, which is eternal life:

Matthew 19:29 - And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. (ESV)

The promise is eternal life which is knowing and never being disconnected from God, our source of life, the One True God, Father God, and Jesus, God's Son:

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

To be justified by working faith, a person must have the faith like Abraham's but in God the Father of Christ Jesus, and our faith is in Christ Jesus as Father God sent Jesus.

Sermon youtube.com: What Do We Believe?

We trust/believe in the one true God who raised Jesus Christ our Lord from the dead. We have peace with God through trusting faith:

Romans 4:23-25,5:1-2 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. **It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

We have faith in Almighty God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Our faith is modeled on Abraham's faith:

Romans 4:16-17 - That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but **also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all**, as it is written, I have made you the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, **who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.** (ESV)

youtube.com: Who Is Yahweh? {@desiringGod} @time: 5 min 54 sec God is who He is means all the universe is by comparison to God as nothing. All the universe by comparison to God is as nothing. Contingent dependent reality is to absolute independent reality as a shadow to substance, as echo to thunderclap, as bubble to ocean. All that we see, all that you are amazed by in your land or around the world, all the world, all the galaxies is compared to God as nothing. If you put God on one side of the scales and the universe on the other side of the scales the universe goes up like air or dust on the scale.

Isaiah 40:17 - All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. (ESV)

By faith Abraham trusted God, was faithful to God, believed God and obeyed God. So the faith has the fruit of walking in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. I think it is especially necessary for those who are circumcised (under the law) to maintain the faith of Abraham:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Abraham is the father of the faithful.

Our faith still follows the pattern of Abraham:

I Peter 3:5-6 - For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And **you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.** (ESV)

In Christ Jesus, only faith working through love matters (the type of faith that produces love), not circumcision, nor uncircumcision, but faith in Jesus Christ, working through love:

Galatians 5:2-6 - Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

The faith which we have that produces love, we have in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

25.0.5 Love never ends. Jesus' words never end.

1 Corinthians 13:8 - Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

Luke 16:16-17 - The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is **easier** for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. (ESV)

25.0.6 The new heavens and new earth

This is cool:

Isaiah 65:17 - For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

I personally am holding out for an entirely new heavens and earth:

I Corinthians 7:29-31 - This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short.** From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For **the present form of this world is passing away.** (ESV)

We are waiting for a new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells:

II Peter 3:5-7 - For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word **the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.** (ESV)

The passing away of the heavens and earth looks like the destruction of the present heavens and earth, including the planets, galaxies, etc. and the works done on earth will be exposed. It's an extreme event:

II Peter 3:10 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (ESV)

The Works of Philo Judaeus, Philo of Alexandria (20BC - 50AD), On the Life of Moses II But the enactments of this lawgiver are firm, not shaken by commotions, not liable to alteration, but stamped as it were with the seal of nature herself, and they remain firm and lasting from the day on which they were first promulgated to the present one, and there may well be a hope that they will remain to all future time, as being immortal, as long as the sun and the moon, and the whole heaven and the whole world shall endure.

The first heaven and first earth pass away and there is a new heaven and a new earth with no suffering. In the new heaven and new earth, the former things have passed away:

- death is no more, and
- there is no mourning,
- nor crying,
- nor pain.

Revelation of John 21:1-5 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, Behold, I am making all things new. Also he said, Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true. (ESV)

I believe though, that the LORD is making an entirely new heavens and a new earth.

Isaiah 66:22 - For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

II Peter 3:13 - But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation of John 21:1-7 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, Behold, I am making all things new. Also he said, Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true. And he said to me, It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Revelation of John 22:12-14 - Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (ESV)

25.0.7 Being sanctified in the Truth

Within Christ, Jesus, the head of the body of Christ, has the perfect vision:

Matthew 7:3-5 - Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (ESV)

Then You have Father God, who as Jesus was in the flesh and at that time, Jesus referred to as having knowledge of the end, which Jesus, God's Son, didn't have in that moment:

Matthew 24:36 - But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. (ESV)

Matthew 24:42-44 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

I believe that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega. This declaration in Revelation shows that Jesus now sees the end:

Revelation of John 22:13-15 - I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (ESV)

- blueletterbible.org 05-in-what-sense-is-jesus-beginning-of-gods-creation.cfm: In What Sense Is Jesus the Beginning of God's Creation? by Don Stewart
- mail.biblehub.com 3-14.htm: Revelation 3:14 Interlinear: 'And to the messenger of the assembly of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the witness – the faithful and true – the chief of the creation of God;

Revelation of John 3:14 - And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. (ESV)

Acts 7:56 - And he said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Chris Tomlin - How Great Is Our God {Live In Nashville 2022} ft. Hillsong UNITED

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him **the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (G1843 exomologeó) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** (ESV)

AMEN!!

Jesus Christ has the name above all names. Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus Christ is Jehovah. Jesus Christ is Immanuel. AMEN!!

25.0.8 A study on the pronunciation of Yhvh, the proper name of the God of Israel

biblehub.com 3-16.htm: Malachi 3:16 Interlinear: Then have those fearing Jehovah spoken one to another

Then spoke those who feared Yahweh one to another and listened Yahweh and heard [them] so was written a book of remembrance before Him for those who fear Yahweh and who meditate on His name

1	227	1696	3372	3068	376	854
2	'āz	nid·bə·rū	yir·'ē	Yah·weh	'iš	'et-
3						
4	Then spoke		those who feared Yahweh		one to	
5	Adv	V-Nifal-Perf-3cp	Adj-mpc	N-proper-ms	N-ms	Prep
6						
7	7453	7181		3068		
8	rē·'ē·hū;	way·yaq·šēb		Yah·weh		
9						
10	another	and listened		Yahweh		
11	N-msc	3ms	Conj-w V-Hifil-ConsecImperf-3ms	N-proper-ms		
12						
13	8085		3789			
14	way·yiš·mā‘,		way·yik·kā·tēb			
15						
16	and heard [them]		so was written			
17	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms		Conj-w V-Nifal-ConsecImperf-3ms			
18						
19	5612	2146	6440	3372		
20	sē·pēr	zik·kā·rō·wn	lə·pā·nāw	lə·yir·'ē		
21						
22	a book of remembrance before Him		for those who fear			
23	N-msc	N-ms	Prep-l N-cpc 3ms	Prep-l Adj-mpc		
24						
25	3068	2803		8034		
26	Yah·weh,	ū·lə·hō·šə·bē		šə·mōw.		
27			.			
28	Yahweh	and who meditate		on His name		
29	N-proper-ms	Conj-w, Prep-l V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc		N-msc 3ms		

ónoma, on'-om-ah from a presumed derivative of the base of G1097 (compare G3685); a "name" (literally or figuratively) (authority, character):—called, (+ sur-)name(-d).

I found these interesting. I haven't fact-checked them yet:

- youtube.com: Where did the name "Jesus" come from?
- youtube.com: Is the name of God pronounced Yehovah?

25.0.9 The Mosaic law is not abolished but Jesus fulfilled it like a prophecy

Luke 16:17 - But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

The righteousness we have through faith in Jesus Christ is needed whether someone keeps the Mosaic law or not.

Not that I keep the Mosaic law in its entirety, nor are circumcised. But I try to keep the Great commandments and the 10 Commandments out of faith (and a relationship with God) and follow parts of the Mosaic law, but I have faith in Jesus Christ for the righteousness that comes through faith because I need that because my own righteousness will never be enough without faith in Jesus for God's righteousness imputed to me.

Thank You God.

And I follow pursue the commandments by faith and not works.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

A person must be at least willing to do His will - obedience is at the essence of faith:

John 7:17 - If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

There is still obedience required. Obedience is intrinsic to faith. The Israelites didn't "work for God" to be saved from the Egyptians, but they "walked obediently for God":

Exodus 14:14-16 - The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

AMEN!!

Galatians 2:17 – But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! (ESV)

AMEN!!

Romans 10:3-4 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

This is why we are not **under** the law because we have the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ. But we are under the law of faith in Christ, under the commandment of Christ.

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

And we are supposed to keep the commandments by pursuing them in faith.

If we teach others to annul even the least of the commandments and annul them ourselves, this I don't think condemn us but is prideful and result in being called the least in the Kingdom.

Matthew 5:19 - Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

25.0.10 We must have the type of heart that is right before God to receive the Holy Spirit

Repenting of sin, repenting of what displeases God, and have a heart of faith towards God to receive *the Holy Spirit* sounds correct.

Acts 8:9: But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great.

We don't receive the gift of God by purchasing the gift of God. We must have the type of heart that is right before God to receive the Holy Spirit:

Acts 8:18-21 - Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive **the Holy Spirit**. But Peter said to him, May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

I John 3:24 - **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

25.0.11 I believe the 10 commandments are special, and Jesus calls us to follow them *from the heart*

Luke 4:8 - And Jesus answered him, It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

We serve God by serving Christ, holding the testimony of Christ:

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

Revelation of John 19:10 - Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (ESV)

Jesus calls us to follow the 10 commandments from the heart, otherwise why would God make a distinction in Exodus 16 between commandments (mitsvah) and instructions/law (towrah)?

Genesis 26:5 - because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my **commandments, my statutes, and my laws.** (ESV)

Exodus 15:26 - saying, If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer. (ESV)

Exodus 16:28 - And the Lord said to Moses, How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? (ESV)

Exodus 16:28 - Then the Lord (H3068 Yhovah) said (H559 'amar) to Moses (H4872 Mosheh), "How (H575 'an) long (H5704 'ad) do you refuse (H3985 ma'en) to keep (H8104 shamar) My commandments (H4687 mitsvah) and My instructions (H8451 towrah)? (NASB)

Exodus 20:5 - You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, (ESV)

Exodus 20:6 - but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. (ESV)

Exodus 34:28 - So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. (ESV)

I John 3:24 - **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

25.0.12 The Apostles also placed requirements on the Gentiles similar to the 10 commandments

Acts 15:28-29 - For it has seemed good to **the Holy Spirit** and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

25.0.13 Faith in Jesus justifies but Jesus helps us to follow the commandments

Mark 10:27 - Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.

25.0.14 Grace from Jesus is essential. Faith in Jesus is essential, even for the one who pursues the law

Galatians 5:4 - You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

I John 2:1 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

25.0.15 The doers of the law are justified. Jesus judges. No-one can be justified without faith

Actually complying with the law (not breaking it) is good:

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers (4163. poiétés) of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

James 4:11-12 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (ESV)

25.0.16 I still think there is hope for people who do what the law requires, and have not yet heard the gospel

I Timothy 4:10-11 - For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.

Romans 10:3-4 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

I Peter 3:18-21 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to **death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit**, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because **they formerly did not obey**, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

I Thessalonians 4:14 - For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Romans 10:12-21 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are they to **call on him** in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us? So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry. Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, **I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.** But of Israel he says, All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.

25.0.17 Faith in Jesus essential to even those who pursue the law, but the law is still pursued

Romans 3:28-31 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

That's not a contradiction.

Jesus helps us to follow the law and where we fall short it's still faith in Jesus that justifies because Jesus is our advocate and High Priest.

Also, I think there's a difference between the commandments (10 and 2) and the full Mosaic law (613 laws).

Exodus 16:28 - Then the Lord (H3068 Yhovah) said (H559 'amar) to Moses (H4872 Mosheh), "How (H575 'an) long (H5704 'ad) do you refuse (H3985 ma'en) to keep (H8104 shamar) My commandments (H4687 mitsvah) and My instructions (H8451 towrah)? (NASB)

26 The Old Testament makes a person wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, and is profitable for training in righteousness:

Old Testament theology is supposed to be profitable for:

- becoming wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus
- doctrine
- reproof
- correction
- **training in righteousness**

For example, **Deuteronomy 28:47-48** shows that when serving God it should be out of joy in Him. It is correct that we should have joy in God and that out of that joy we delight in God and that overflows into sharing the love of God to others. We must come to a place where we see this law as correct. It's an important one.

We are supposed to serve God out of joy!

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 - Because you did not **serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart**, because of the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is the bread from heaven:

John 21:15-17 - When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Feed my lambs. He said to him a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Tend my sheep. He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, Do you love me? and he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep.

The original Apostles were instructed to feed Jesus' sheep with the living bread that is Jesus Christ. Likewise, in living testimony we should teach others to walk the way of righteousness:

John 6:33 - For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

II Timothy 3:12-17 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been **acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

2 Timothy 3:15-16 - and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (ESV)

Torah means instruction for righteousness.

27 Jesus allowed himself to be baptised by John for the fulfillment of all righteousness

Matthew 3:11-17 - I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with **the Holy Spirit** and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me? But Jesus answered him, **Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness**. Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (ESV)

28 Jesus fulfilled the law

- Who gave Moses the law and the instructions to build the tabernacle? God did.
 - The blueprints came from God.
- The Law, the Psalms and the Prophets all point to Jesus.
- Moses wrote about Jesus.
- Jesus fulfilled the Law and the prophecies.

We still follow the law but by faith and not by works.

We keep accountability with God, and in truth over following the law - God knows when we lie, cheat, commit adultery, idolise etc. We follow the law in truth. Jesus fulfilled the law. Jesus' blood is the atonement for sin. So we go to Jesus for forgiveness instead of perform the ceremonial law to try to make atonement for sin.

This looks like an interesting resource about that - Exodus 25-40 The Tabernacle as a Type of Jesus Christ

28.1 Don't be deceived: Keeping commandments isn't the same thing as placing oneself under the Mosaic law for justification. We're commanded to obey Jesus, and that matters

I Corinthians 7:17-19 - Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.

28.2 Justified by faith alone - faith is obedient

Firstly, we must believe in the Son of God, because while we're believing in Him and we're not rejecting Him and we're not denying Him, we are holding eternal life and have the hope of eternal life:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheō*) the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

And we must continue holding fast to the gospel, and if we hold fast to the truth of the gospel we will in the future receive the promise of eternal life:

I John 2:23-29 - No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

We continue to follow Jesus and listen to His teachings:

John 10:25-28 - Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

Mark 4:24 - And he said to them, Pay attention to **what** you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.

Luke 8:18 - So take care **how** you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

Martin Luther - "We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone."

Luke 16:16 - The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. (ESV)

Galatians 3:19-29 - Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

The Scripture imprisoned everything under sin. Before faith came, we were held captive under the law.

Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus, we are all sons of God through faith.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ - heirs according to promise:

Galatians 3:26-29 - for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

All who a) believe without being circumcised (i.e. they are not under the law), and also b) those who are circumcised (adhere to the law) but walk in the footsteps of faith that Abraham had before he was circumcised (still walk in faith as Abraham did before circumcision) are heirs according to promise:

Romans 4:11-12 - He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. (ESV)

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

Obedience here led to faith:

Exodus 14:31 - Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. (ESV)

Faith eclipses the law:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

I think someone who trusts in God to save them through saving faith in Jesus Christ, is saved, or is in the process of being saved. But keep in mind that someone who truly trusts Jesus will do as Jesus has commanded.

Abraham's faith was both obedient and believing.

God is the judge of what saving faith looks like, and how long the process of 'being saved' takes, and God is the justifier.

We must receive Jesus' words, walk in them and come to **know in truth** (we must truly know) that Jesus came from God.

John 17:8 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have **come to know in truth that I came from you**; and they have believed that you sent me.

John 1:11-13 - He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe (G4100 pisteuo) in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Therefore, we should obey Jesus and arrive at the truth. Obedience is a part of faith. Like Abraham obeying God, or like Israel crossing through the Red Sea, it's obedience which leads to sure belief. And the obedience doesn't end.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you free." (NASB)

Through faithful endurance we endeavor to be justified in Christ.

Galatians 2:17 – But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! (ESV)

The Revelation of John shows that Jesus looks at people's works.

Faith without working through love doesn't count for anything.

Faith which produces love:

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

Faith that from a good conscience with God produces Christ's love:

I Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5 - The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (ESV)

The only point I want to make from this text here is that faith is supposed to continue in love and holiness. I believe this continuation of obedience with faith, love and holiness (and self-control, which along with love is one of the fruit of the Spirit) applies to all Christians. John Piper explains this well:

I Timothy 2:13-15 - For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing — **if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.** (ESV)

Quote from John Piper and then all of this: faith, love, holiness, self-control is simply ordinary pathway that all men and women must take in order to come to eternal life and to salvation. We must believe, we must love, that love must yield holiness, and part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in that holiness is self-control.

1Clem 33:3 They all therefore were glorified and magnified, not through themselves or their own works or the righteous doing which they wrought, but through His will.

1Clem 33:4 And so we, having been called through His will in Christ Jesus, are not justified through ourselves or through our own wisdom or understanding or piety or works which we wrought in holiness of heart, but through faith, whereby the Almighty God justified all men that have been from the beginning; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1Clem 33:1 What then must we do, brethren? Must we idly abstain from doing good, and forsake love? May the Master never allow this to befall us at least; but let us hasten with instance and zeal to accomplish every good work.

1Clem 33:2 For the Creator and Master of the universe Himself rejoiceth in His works.

28.3 Friends of God obey God

James 2:22-24 - You see that faith was working with (4903. sunergeó) his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

John 15:14 - You are my friends if you do what I command you.

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

28.3.1 The love of the truth involves faith in the truth and sanctification

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Agape love not only assents to but rejoices with the truth:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

28.4 Dead faith is disobedient

I want to be clear, having faith in Jesus Christ is not dead faith. Dead faith is precisely not having faith in Jesus Christ.

Adam's disobedience caused our disobedience:

Romans 5:19 - For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

28.4.1 We were disobedient

Romans 11:30 - Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,

Romans 11:32 - For God has consigned all to disobedience (543. *apeitheia - willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience*) that he may have mercy on all.

Ephesians 2:2 - in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

28.4.2 We are brought to obedience

An obedient heart is required for it to not be 'dead faith'.

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

II Corinthians 10:6 - being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

28.4.3 The disobedient will receive the wrath of God

Ephesians 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuo*) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

Hebrews 2:2 - For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

Hebrews 4:6 - Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,

Hebrews 4:11 - Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

28.5 Saving faith

I really think that God is faithful and He's above all things, and we just need to receive the saving gospel message and when trial, tribulation, or the testing of your faith happens, we have to hold fast to the truth and persevere with it.

Repent from sin, receive by faith with meekness the implanted word, and be a doer of the word, persevering with it:

James 1:21-24 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. (ESV)

We were saved in this hope, but we still continue to hope: s

Romans 8:23-25 - And not only the creation, but **we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we **wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies**. For **in this hope we were saved**. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (ESV)

28.5.1 believing on Jesus

I think entry level saving faith is having faith on Jesus' name - but the salvation is a gift which needs to be received through faith. I no longer call it 'baseline' saving faith, but rather 'entry level'.

John 20:31 - but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

He is the resurrection and the life.

Whoever believes in Him, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Him shall never die.

I believe that a person needs to have an obedient heart - wanting to do the will of Father God - wanting to obey Jesus Christ.

Keeping Jesus Christ's commandments is a requirement to inherit eternal life, not an extra:

John 15:10 - **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,** just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Faith may come from simply observing Jesus work, reading Jesus' words and believing, or through work from disciples of Jesus, etc.

John 11:14-15 Then Jesus told them plainly, Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.

It's for their sake, so that they would be able to believe (have faith):

John 11:15 - and I am (G5463 chairo) glad (G5463 chairo) for your sakes (G1223 dia) that I was not there (G1563 ekei), so (G2443 hina) that you may believe (G4100 pisteuo); but let us go (G71 ago) to him."

1 : 4100 pisteuo pist-yoo'-o

2

3 from 4102; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or
4 thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's
5 spiritual well-being to Christ):--believe(-r), commit (to trust), put
6 in trust with.

7 see GREEK for 4102

John 11:23-27 - Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise again. Martha said to him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? She said to him, Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.

The person has to **really** believe - to have actual faith - the faith that continues to produce obedient work, the faith that continues to produce love.

Even Martha's faith here was put on display when she confessed, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." It shows she has faith.

28.5.2 by the grace of God alone - no works

This guy was expecting to receive - he had solid faith:

Acts 3:5-7 - And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene— walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

Acts 3:16 - And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

I think it's possible but you have to expect to receive it:

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?

AMEN!!

Like Abraham we trust God who is reliable. We can be unreliable but we trust God who is reliable and faithful.

I still think that trust elicits obedience. Since God commanded us to place our faith in Him, then to have faith itself is to have begun to obey God.

Abraham was unwavering in trusting God who is absolutely reliable.

The reason Abraham's faith was counted as righteousness is because no **distrust** made him waver (Abraham faithfully trusted God regarding the promise). Abraham believed God was able to do what He had promised. So a good **indicator** that Abraham was totally trusting of God is that Abraham walked in the promise of God. I think the most important takeaway from this is that **faith is trusting**, even if our trusting faith may waver, our faith intrinsically is trusting of God, and trust naturally elicits both belief and obedience:

Romans 4:20-22 - **No distrust (apistia) made him waver** concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **That is why** his faith was counted to him as righteousness. (ESV)

1 apistia: unbelief

2 Original Word: , ,

3 Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

4 Transliteration: apistia

5 Phonetic Spelling: (ap-is-tee'-ah)

6 Definition: unbelief

7 Usage: unbelief, unfaithfulness, distrust.

However, I still think that inheriting the Kingdom and inheriting eternal life involves being obedient to Jesus which leads to true knowledge. Obedience to God should naturally flow from faithful trusting in God.

There is still obedience required but to have placed one's trust in God that God will fulfill His promises is sufficient obedience. God works for those who wait on Him:

Isaiah 64:4 - From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. (ESV)

At the end of the day it's what God has done for us and what God does for us, not what we do for Him:

I John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

Praise youtube.com: Way Maker - Paul McClure | Moment

Love is passed forward. Those who are truly obedient, keep His commandments, but that also means accepting that God loved us first. God is pre-eminent:

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

- youtube.com: Theology is for Everyone J I Packer @time: 45 min 47 sec We live our lives in responsive love to God and responsive love to our neighbor with whom we seek to share our faith just as we seek to serve our neighbor in every other way and this means that the life that God has given us is being passed on and passed back, back finally to God Himself in praise and thanksgiving and the joy of fellowship with Him.

Obedience is intrinsic to faith, but the obedient also recognise that love comes from God and God has loved us first through sending His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Obedience leads to knowledge of Jesus:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you free.” (NASB)

John 17:8 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have **come to know in truth that I came from you;** and they have believed that you sent me.

28.5.3 fear of God as a friend of God

Psalms 25:14 - The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. (ESV)

James 4:4-5 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us? (ESV)

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Acts 10:34-35: So Peter opened his mouth and said: Truly I understand that **God shows no partiality**, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Galatians 2:6 - And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; **God shows no partiality**)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. (ESV)

Fear of God is not only about having the heart to repent from sin and "beat hand on chest and ask God for mercy", but it is also having a changed heart, endeavoring to please Christ with our actions:

II Corinthians 5:6-11 - So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.** Therefore, knowing the **fear of the Lord**, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. (ESV)

Isaiah 66:2 - All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. (ESV)

The repentant sinner next to Jesus on the cross knew he deserved his punishment, and he even demonstrated that he had a heart that obeys the gospel (whereas the other person appears to have been disobedient to the gospel to death):

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

The unrepentant sinner wanted Jesus to save his present life:

Luke 23:39 - One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”

The repentant sinner feared God and put his hope on Jesus Christ, not to save him from the cross, but to save his soul:

Luke 23:40-43 - But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

A key thing here is that the repentant sinner didn't value his present life, and didn't care to ask Jesus to save his present life on earth. The repentant sinner had come to the end of caring about his present life, and put his trust in Jesus. This is what we should do, and it looks like sacrificing the present life to follow Jesus. And I believe that to someone who isn't literally at the end of their earthly life that looks like repentance from sin and an obedient heart, serving Jesus. You can see that he had a changed heart, and was remorseful. He knew he was being justly punished. And he had the heart to want to follow Jesus.

Luke 9:23-24 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (ESV)

- Fear of God
 - Fear-of-God = e.g. The poor in spirit recognise their need of God's mercy and tremble at His Word
 - **Luke 18:13** - But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! (ESV)
 - * And a sinner (with that attitude, I believe) who trusts God to justify him, that person's faith is counted as righteousness:
 - **Romans 4:5** - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,
 - Do what is right and acceptable to him
 - **Romans 13:10** - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Jeremiah 32:40 - I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. (ESV)

28.5.4 a life of faith

The followers of Paul the Apostle live by (walk by) faith; those are the righteous ones. It's a lifestyle:

Galatians 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. (ESV)

I think there's probably some nuance between being spared from death, from condemnation and receiving eternal life.

Romans 6:22 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

While Jesus can save someone from dying, I think eternal life the way it's presented is more than that - it's becoming a part of the Truth - it's union with Christ and with God.

I think it's perpetually having faith in Jesus, having arrived at true knowledge of Him, and being in relationship with Him and with God.

Matthew 19:29 - And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. (ESV)

28.5.5 Saving faith / Works of faith / Faith with works

Jesus said that patient endurance is a work.

Revelation of John 2:2 - I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

Revelation of John 2:19 - I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

Likewise, love for Jesus by obeying His commandments, love for Jesus by loving one's neighbour also qualifies as a work, love for Jesus by .

Mark 11:23 - Truly, I say to you, whoever **says to this mountain, Be taken up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart**, but believes that what he says **will come to pass**, it will be done for him.

Peter's demonstration of obedient faith. Doubt inhibits faith:

Matthew 14:28-31 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, Lord, save me. Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? (ESV)

Obeying Jesus' commandments - believing Jesus and acting on Jesus' commandments **is** faith.

Keeping Jesus' deeds is saving faith:

Revelation of John 2:25-29 - Nevertheless what you have, **hold fast until I come. He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end**, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

James isn't talking about work of the law, he's talking about the works of faith.

God desires us to have mercy.

There are a lot of 'do nots' in the law but the most important thing is the 2 'do' commandments. The 'do nots' are to stop people from doing bad things, but the 2 Greatest commandments command us to love God and our neighbour.

Matthew 22:37-40 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

James 2:13-17 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a **brother or sister** is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

MERCY.

Matthew 12:3-8 - He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And **if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless.** For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.

MERCY.

Faith without work is dead; it's useless.

That person is completely at the mercy of Jesus and of the saints, I think.

1 Corinthians 3:15 - If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (ESV)

But having true faith in Jesus is work.

Sometimes a person's work is all burned up but they are **still saved**.

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that **you believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him whom he has sent.** (ESV)

28.5.6 Salvation is through grace alone, but through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth, which is cooperative

Jesus' sacrifice outside Jerusalem is so that we might be sanctified through His own blood and come into Jerusalem. I still think that there's nothing wrong with bearing the reproach Jesus endured - in fact it's encouraged. I think we bear His reproach in order to be sanctified and then call Jerusalem our home:

Hebrews 13:12-14 - So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Agape love not only assents to but rejoices with the truth:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

The Spirit sanctifies as we have faith in the truth. The faith in the truth is the cooperative part, where we obey the truth.

28.6 Working faith / faith with substance

Faith is a relationship with God. God has promised inheriting the Kingdom, inheriting eternal life to those who obey Him. But God is sovereign to save.

I made these equations to describe my understanding that faith is actually closely related to belief, obedience, hope and love, and they actually are not completely separate things.

We need well-grounded (faith in Jesus), well-placed (on the right stuff) agape love for God, those in Christ, our spouse, and even called to agape love all people with agape love, but not agape-ing the world or the world's lusts:

I Corinthians 13:2 - And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love (26. agapé - treasuring, valuing love), I am nothing. (ESV)

1 Faith-in-God = Hope-from/in-God * Work/Love/Walking-By-Faith
2
3 Hope-from/in-God = Belief(believing God) * Truth(God's word is Truth, Jesus is the Truth)
4
5 Work/Love/Walking-By-Faith = Obedience * Faithfulness * Fear-of-God * Response-of-love-to-Jesus *
6
7 Obedience = Submitting to the Righteousness of God * Turning from sin, loving, showing mercy, etc
8
9 Fear-of-God = e.g. The poor in spirit recognise their need of God's mercy and tremble at His Word
10 Fear of God is not only about having the heart to repent from sin and "beat hand on
11 endeavoring to please Christ with our actions.
12 godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret
13
14 Response-of-love-to-Jesus = e.g. praise, thankfulness, obeying His commandments
15
16 Love is proportional-to the baggage which has been forgiven
17 Love forgiven-baggage
18
19 Obedience Love
20
21 F = H * L
22 Faith = Hope * Love
23
24 Faith-in-God when tested by God is found to be true Faith in God.
25 Faith-in-God must submit to the Righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ,
26 Jesus Christ having paid the price of sin, enabling a relationship with God.

But salvation is a gift and God is sovereign to save. That's why it's grace. Saved by grace through faith. Yet actual obedience to the gospel of Jesus is merely Jesus working through us. When a person truly believes then they naturally obey.

I think a person needs **some** faith to be saved, and faith naturally produces work and any work done out of obedience to Jesus is Jesus' work.

Salvation has to be accepted.

I believe the explanation for the 'apparent paradox' of salvation by faith alone or salvation by 'faith*works' is that while truly obeying God, it's actually God working through you, just as the Israelites obeyed God and went through the Red Sea, or when Noah obeyed God and built the Ark.

We are saved by faith alone but that is not a reason to discourage people from obeying the gospel by the false (in my opinion) doctrine that 'faith and obedience' are mutually exclusive:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 1:8 - in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on **those who do not know God and on those who do not obey** the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (ESV)

James 1:21-22 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (ESV)

Galatians 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall **live by** faith. (ESV)

A person must be at least willing to do His will - obedience is at the essence of faith:

John 7:17 - If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

There is still obedience required but to have placed one's trust in God that God will fulfill His promises is sufficient obedience. God works for those who wait on Him:Obedience is intrinsic to faith, but the obedient also recognise that love comes from God and God has loved us first through sending His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Obedience leads to knowledge of Jesus:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you free." (NASB)

John 17:8 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

I Timothy 2:3-6 - This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

Everyone **believing** that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

- 1 John 5:1 Interlinear: Every one who is believing that Jesus is the Christ, of God he hath been begotten, and every one who is loving Him who did beget, doth love also him who is begotten of Him:

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (ESV)

Therefore, we should receive Jesus' words and obey Jesus and arrive at the truth. Obedience is an essential part of faith. Like Abraham obeying God, or like Israel crossing through the Red Sea, it's obedience which leads to sure belief, and obedience that leads a person into sure knowledge of the truth, and obedience which cooperates with sanctification.

Exodus 14:14-16 - The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

Mercy is available:

Luke 18:13 - But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! (ESV)

Those who fear God inherit the Kingdom.

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Condition: Those who are poor in spirit **Promise:** They will inherit the kingdom of Heaven

Isaiah 66:2 - All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. (ESV)

Fear of God is not only about having the heart to repent from sin and "beat hand on chest and ask God for mercy", but it is also having a changed heart, endeavoring to please Christ with our actions:

II Corinthians 5:6-11 - So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.** Therefore, knowing the **fear of the Lord**, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:10 - For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. (ESV)

We need faithfulness and not faithlessness and disbelief to inherit the promises:

Hebrews 12:16-17 - that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Revelation of John 2:2 - I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

Here it says that unless the church **does the work** which it had started out doing, their lampstand will be removed from its place.

Revelation of John 2:5 - Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Which commandments must we keep? Jesus' commandments - Jesus' sayings and commandments which Father God commanded Him to speak. Also, it's worth learning from the Apostles who were with Jesus. Some commandments of Jesus are divulged and better understood from their writings.

Jesus kept Father God's commandments including the commandment of what to say and speak to us. Jesus' words and sayings and commandments which God gave Him to speak to us are what we should keep. His commandments are eternal life for us:

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

From infants in Christ to maturity, people who keep Jesus' commandments are found in Christ who is in God:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:1-5 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Because God loved us *first*:

- The Apostle Paul endeavours to know Jesus ('makes it his own'. See **Php 3:9-13**) because *Jesus made Paul His own*

— To be found in Jesus **is** what Paul describes as the righteousness from God that depends on faith

* **Philippians 3:8-12** - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

* **I Thessalonians 5:8** - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

* **I John 3:23-24** - And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.** **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

- * **Ephesians 6:14** - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, (ESV)
- * **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce **the righteousness that God requires**. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)
- We know Jesus by believing in Him and obeying His commandments, and when we love and forgive we know *God loved us and forgave us first*
- * **I John 2:3-6** - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)
- We must love because *He loved us first* for God to abide in us
 - **Romans 5:7-8** - For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)
 - **I John 4:9-12** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)
- We must forgive as we have been forgiven
 - **Colossians 3:12-14** - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)
- We must be conformed to holiness
 - **I Peter 1:14-16** - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. (ESV)

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

If there is such a thing as justifying work then it is better described as obedient faith (**Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25**) and obedient faith is "being found in Christ".

If a response of love for Jesus justifying 'work' then it would be based on being loved and forgiven first by God.

Luke 7:47-50 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. And he said to her, Your sins are forgiven. Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, Who is this, who even forgives sins? And he said to the woman, Your faith has saved you; go in peace. (ESV)

James 2:22-25 - You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works**; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

ONLY **working faith** counts for anything. Even Paul agrees. However, it says 'in Christ Jesus', and I believe that those who trust in Jesus without work still abide, but by the skin of their teeth.

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but **only faith working through love**. (ESV)

Loving God is obeying His commandments.

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that **we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome**.

29 We must love God

- youtube.com: Love Jesus More Than You Love Anything

Matthew 22:37-39 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV)

In response to forgiveness, we must love:

Luke 7:47 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. (ESV)

He loved us first, and that is why and how we love (knowing we've already received mercy). Christ's love is not simply charity but a) it's passing-forward Christ's love, and b) it's to relieve other's burdens (mercy, not sacrifice):

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Acts 2:45 - And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (ESV)

Jesus laid down His life. Maybe this says something about how we should also lay down our lives for each other:

John 10:17 - For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. (ESV)

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

29.1 We must agape love God, we must agape people and we must not agape the things of the world

God also wants us to have joy in Him.

youtube.com: Overcoming Spiritual Dryness @time: 21 min 24 sec A lot of preaching of the law (and I think that's a good thing) deals with the law just at a 'do' level - a deed level - don't commit adultery, don't lie, don't steal, and doesn't probe the depths of commandment number 10 which is the root of all the others.

Thou shalt not desire things in ways you shouldn't - covet.

Desire is the root problem in the law and so when we preach not enough people probe people's consciences and hearts as to **what do you delight in?**

..

To know that my heart has to change my whole structure of motivation has to change my whole priority of treasuring things in the world has to change I'm damned I'm just I there's nothing I can do I feel totally devastated by this indictment. That's a third reason why I think we should not just say "pursue" God.

...

Because you know what people will do with the word pursue? They'll just fill in all the verbs they feel comfortable with: "I'll read about him." "I'll talk about him." "I'll do some things for him." "[But] don't you touch my heart because I'm in love with money, and I'm in love with the praise of man."

So don't connect "pursue god" with "pursue joy in God".

We are after God in a **certain way**, not to indict him, not to ignore him, not merely to say right things about him. We're after God to enjoy him. and if we don't, we don't honor him.

It's a huge, huge issue. My goal is God and happiness in all that he is for me.

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 shows that when serving God it should be out of joy in Him. It is correct that we should have joy in God and that out of that joy we delight in God and that overflows into sharing the love of God to others. We must come to a place where we see this law as correct. It's an important one.

We are supposed to serve God out of joy!

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 - Because you did not **serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart**, because of the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. (ESV)

So how do we get to this place of serving God in joy? Through the power of the atonement, through having faith in Jesus Christ, trusting Him, we can be set free from sin - we can have our hearts and minds renewed.

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó* - *value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs* - *unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina* - *in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

biblehub.com 3-16.htm: John 3:16 Interlinear: for God did so love the world, that His Son – the only begotten – He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during.

John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

29.2 We must love Jesus

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

29.3 What's the relationship between loving God and loving Jesus?

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

John 5:42 - But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. (ESV)

When confronted with Jesus, loving Jesus is the test of whether you love God.

29.4 What is the nature of this love?

Required to satisfy the "Christ's love" criteria I believe are:

- Our first agape love has to be Jesus
- We love because God loved us first. We ought to love others because we have been loved by God
- We forgive out of a loving response to God and to others, knowing we have already been forgiven of our debt
- It must satisfy Christ's law
- Acceptance comes at the beginning; Jesus gives us the benefit of the doubt
- Be a servant; consider others more significant than yourself
- Seek to do not harm to your neighbour
- Bear one another's burdens without partiality
- We should endeavour to love not just on occasion, but at all times, continually, as Jesus did, and give our all

29.4.1 It's affectionate and treasuring

In a way the love of Jesus is like the love of your children:

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

Your children are your treasure; you wouldn't sell them for billions of dollars. Jesus has to be our treasure. Jesus has to be our Pearl of Great price:

Matthew 13:45-46 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Be the Centre - Michael Frye

29.4.2 Heavenly treasure and the Pearl of Great Price

The Pearl of Great Price, Jesus and Jesus' gospel:

Matthew 13:45-46 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (ESV)

The Pearl of Great Price is Jesus and we want to gain Christ, know Christ and invest our lives for His gospel. In following Jesus, eternal life is still a free gift because as Paul says here, what we give up is worthless compared to knowing Christ:

Philippians 3:7-8 - But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (ESV)

Matthew 16:25 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

Mark 8:35 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (ESV)

I'm pretty convinced that what Jesus means by the following is that by giving up earthly treasure in the pursuit of Jesus, heavenly treasure is acquired. I'd say it's likely that the heavenly treasure is simply helping those people. So selling what a person possesses and giving to those in need, though apart from faith in Jesus isn't a "requirement for eternal life", it is a fast track to serving Jesus and getting our heart in heaven and leaning on Jesus, so doing as Jesus said in obedient faith is already starting to follow Jesus and store up heavenly treasure. Seek heavenly reward, not earthly reward. Have a heart seeking reward from God and not from man. Have your heart in heaven, not in earth. We give up our earthly treasure and help other people with it and this becomes heavenly treasure, and we then go after Jesus as our Pearl of Great Price:

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Also, I still think that people, and acts of kindness towards people can be heavenly treasure, but they should not be our number 1 treasure. Jesus must be.

29.4.3 We need to treasure Jesus, and from there we should keep Jesus' commandments. Jesus must be our number 1

Job 22:24-26 - if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. (ESV)

God wants us to love Him, treasure Him (25. agapaó), value Him with all our heart, and love and value
youtube.com: What Is It Like to Enjoy God? @time: 35 min 16 sec

Jesus certainly does command us to have emotions for things. For example:

- we should fear God
- we should be thankful
- we should be compassionate
- we should fear the right things
- we should be earnest
- we should hope

29.4.4 The person who has Jesus' commandments and keeps them, loves Jesus

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

29.4.5 If we love Jesus, then we will keep Jesus' commandments

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

So in order to make it much easier to keep Jesus' commandments, we should make Jesus our Pearl of Great Price, our #1 love. If we don't make Jesus our #1 love then it will be much harder to keep Jesus' commandments.

29.5 How do we get to this place of treasuring Jesus?

Luke 7:47 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. (ESV)

29.6 If we don't love Jesus, we wont have Jesus

Matthew 10:37 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:22 - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)

30 Kingdom of Servants

- Jesus Christ is God's servant
- We are Jesus' servants

Psalms 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. (ESV)

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:24-26 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Song youtube.com: I'm Your Servant

Jesus is God's servant:

Acts 3:13 - The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified **his servant Jesus**, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

Acts 4:24-30 - And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by **the Holy Spirit**, Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed—for truly in this city there were gathered together against your **holy servant Jesus**, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Romans 15:8 - For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

Jesus, as God's servant, came to serve others, and to save:

Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man came not to be served **but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Because God loves people, and wants them to be saved:

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

God loves and sees as a son those who love (by obedience) Jesus and believe that He came from God:

John 16:26-27 - In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

We are Jesus' servants:

John 18:36 - Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, **my servants** would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.

Philippians 1:1 - Paul and Timothy, **servants of Christ Jesus**, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

Colossians 4:12 - Epaphras, who is one of you, a **servant of Christ Jesus**, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

For Jesus' sake we serve others:

II Corinthians 4:5 - For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

A good servant of Jesus is trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine.

I Timothy 4:6 - If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good **servant of Christ Jesus**, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

God saved us through Jesus:

Titus 1:1-3 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

Servants of Jesus Christ are servants of God. Servants of God are servants of Jesus Christ:

James 1:1 - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

I Corinthians 4:1 - This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

The apostles of Jesus are servants:

II Peter 1:1 - Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

Romans 1:1 - Paul, a **servant of Christ Jesus**, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Jude is Jesus' servant:

Jude 1:1 - Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

The Revelation of John is for God's servants:

Revelation of John 1:1 - The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

If anyone's will is to be a servant of God, they will receive revelation which confirms the scriptures:

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

God's angels are servants:

Revelation of John 19:10 - Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

The world cannot hate people who are disobedient to God:

John 7:5-7 - For not even his brothers believed in him. Jesus said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.

But the servant of Christ is to be a light to the world:

The world (the remaining people, who have not repented) may know that Father God has sent Jesus and loved Jesus' disciples:

John 17:23 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Ephesians 2:2 - in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

Servants of Jesus who are servants of God encounter resistance from the world as they fall out of love with the world:

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:10 - For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:38 - but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. (ESV)

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuó, pepisteukotas) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:38 - but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. (ESV)

John 12:25 - Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (ESV)

Matthew 6:30-32 - But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

John 15:18-19 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 15:23 - Whoever hates me hates my Father also.

II Corinthians 11:23 - Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.

Pleasing man is loving the world:

Galatians 1:10 - For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Ephesians 6:6 - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

As servants of Jesus, we should encourage other servants of Jesus to maturity:

Colossians 4:12 - Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

Colossians 1:7 - just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf

I Corinthians 16:8-10 - But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. (ESV)

With hearts that treasure Jesus, for His sake:

- We count all worldly gain as loss
- We serve others

Matthew 20:25-28 - But Jesus called them to him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Philippians 3:7-17 - But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may **know him and the power of his resurrection**, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, **join in imitating me**, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. (ESV)

II Corinthians 4:5 - For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (ESV)

30.1 Being washed and washing one another

We abide in Jesus when He washes us. When the Holy Spirit washes us, the Holy Spirit helps us to put sin to death:

John 13:8 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Peter believed/received/obeyed/trusted like a child of God (he cooperated) to let Jesus wash him but it was Jesus doing the work:

John 13:9 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! (ESV)

We call on Jesus to wash us:

Acts 22:16 - And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

Being washed, we ought to wash one another's feet:

John 13:14 - If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (ESV)

I Timothy 5:9-10 - Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. (ESV)

1 rebuke
2 An expression of sharp disapproval or
3 criticism.
4 "he hadn't meant it as a rebuke, but Neil
5 flinched"

Correcting others with gentleness is not against rebuking with sharpness. When it comes to bad doctrine it should be rebuked with sharpness. Also, sexual immorality should not be tolerated, but rebuked:

II Timothy 2:24-26 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them **repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil**, after being **captured by him to do his will**. (ESV)

Galatians 6:1 - Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. (ESV)

I Corinthians 4:21,5:1-5 - What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or **with love in a spirit of gentleness?** It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:14 - Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

Titus 1:12-16 - One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. This testimony is true. Therefore **rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith**, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Representing Jesus, share the gospel in word and deed while also endeavoring to maintain a good conscience with God and Christlike behaviour:

I Peter 3:15-16 - but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; **yet do it with gentleness and respect**, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (ESV)

Jude 1:21-23 - keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And **have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear**, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. (ESV)

Jude 1:21-23 - Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And **of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire**; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. (KJV)

30.2 Entering into life / the Kingdom of Heaven

God helps us to enter into His Kingdom:

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:18 - The Lord will **rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom**. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

But we must continue in the faith:

Colossians 1:21-23 - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (ESV)

Through the power of God working in us as we hold faith in Jesus we may enter the Kingdom of God:

Mathetes to Diognetus This was not that He at all delighted in our sins, but that He simply endured them; nor that He approved the time of working iniquity which then was, but that He sought to form a mind conscious of righteousness, so that being convinced in that time of our unworthiness of attaining life through our own works, it should now, through the kindness of God, be vouchsafed to us; and having made it manifest that in ourselves we were unable to enter into the kingdom of God, we might through the power of God be made able.

We seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting God, trusting Jesus, remaining faithful to Jesus as we keep His commandments, not trusting in the worldly stuff, but trusting Jesus:

Matthew 6:24-34 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is

thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

Endurance is important:

Luke 9:62 - Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (ESV)

I John 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:36-39 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the **will of God** you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Resist the false teaching from impostors who do not want to repent even from sin and believe, and turn to obey God and do good work:

II Timothy 3:12-17 - Indeed, all who desire to **live a godly life in Christ Jesus** will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, **continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed**, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, **for correction**, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, **equipped for every good work**. (ESV)

A disciple of Jesus is a servant of Jesus:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuó, pepisteukotas) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

It requires letting go of this world:

II Timothy 4:10 - For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. (ESV)

Matthew 19:22-23 - When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Giving up idols, and giving them up from the heart, is important for entering the Kingdom of God.

Luke 11:39-41 - And the Lord said to him, Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. (ESV)

Mark 10:21-23 - And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. **Disheartened** by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! (ESV)

Repentance is important:

Matthew 3:3-9 - For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father, for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Jesus will gather His wheat into the barn:

Matthew 3:10-12 - Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with **the Holy Spirit** and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

We should become followers of Jesus.

Justice, mercy and faithfulness are **essential** for entering the Kingdom of God.
Repentance and holiness are very important for entering the Kingdom of God too.

Matthew 23:23-25 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

We must turn from sin and lead godly lives with faith in Jesus:

Matthew 5:14-20 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore **whoever relaxes** one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever does them and teaches them will be called great** in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Believing John the Baptist is in accordance with believing Jesus:

Matthew 21:28-32 - What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, Son, go and work in the vineyard today. And he answered, I will not, but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, I go, sir, but did

not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, The first. Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

The works of the law are not essential for being justified by God, but faith in Jesus is, and I believe that following Jesus is in accordance with having faith in Jesus:

Galatians 2:16 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Nevertheless, following the commandments and repenting from sin are of great value, I think. But through faith in Christ Jesus we are justified and have peace with God.

Galatians 3:24-26 - So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

30.3 Guideline

Exodus 20:12 - Honor your father and your mother, **that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.** (ESV)

Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), **that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.** (ESV)

According to **Matthew 19**, obeying (actually keeping, complying with) the commandments (10 commandments, **from the heart**, and in reality, accountable to God / the 2 Great commandments) is important for entering into the Kingdom of Heaven [well], entering into life [well]:

Matthew 19:16-26 - And behold, a man came up to him, saying, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The young man said to him, All these I have kept. What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

II Corinthians 11:31 - The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

Apply them in truth - keep accountability to God, not merely to other people. God can see. Also, lay up treasure in Heaven:

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

Also, most importantly believe in the atonement which Jesus provides:

John 6:55-71 - For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever. Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, This is a hard saying; who can listen to it? But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

Both free grace and Lordship are required.

If either the atonement is rejected or Jesus' Lordship is rejected, I think both groups of people who have rejected atonement or Lordship will be rejected. And I define Lordship as obeying Jesus Christ, and I define obeying Jesus Christ as obeying His commandments; not just sharing the gospel but also His commandment to love others in the same way that He has loved us. However, if someone hasn't heard the good news yet, but lives righteously then God will judge that person fairly, I think.

Also, most importantly, become obedient to Jesus:

- Obey Jesus' commandments
- Do not follow the pattern of this world; leave this world behind
- Become a servant of Jesus
- We must forgive others

Matthew 10:24 - A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

Matthew 18:33 - And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?

Don't shrink back:

John 6:63-69 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father. After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, Do you want to go away as well? Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.

Most importantly, don't betray Jesus:

John 6:70-71 - Jesus answered them, Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil. He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

Don't deny Jesus, don't be ashamed of Jesus:

II Timothy 2:11-13 - The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Mark 8:38 - For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. (ESV)

Obey God's law (to your knowledge or level of commitment) in faith, not by works, making yourself accountable to God, not men, and accept the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice through having faith in Jesus:

Romans 14:10-18 - Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess (G1843 exomologeó) to God. So then **each of us will give an account of himself to God.** Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.** (ESV)

Obey the Royal Law, even owing that to others. We still keep accountability to God for following this:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

If we are servants of Christ then we are acceptable to God. Serving Christ, loving our neighbour as ourselves, bearing one another's burdens, trying to do no harm to our neighbour, we should have a good conscience before God and men:

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

We need to be justified before God, and that is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Luke 16:15-17 - And he said to them, You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

Do the will of Father God.

To do the will of Father God, one must do it in truth - God knows and can see the heart.

II Corinthians 11:31 - The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

Don't be a ravenous wolf on the inside (repent from sin)! Embrace repentance and sanctification and abide in the teachings of Christ. Be doers of Christ's law:

Matthew 7:14-23 - For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

We must obey God's commandments to love Him and love our neighbour, and have faith in Jesus Christ. We must submit to the righteousness of God.

II Peter 1:10-11 - Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We must live for the will of God:

I Peter 4:1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

I agree that the one who tried to serve Jesus and produce work is still saved yet as through fire.

There's nothing wrong either with calling on people to repent (turn away from sin) and believe in Jesus Christ, or believe in Jesus Christ's blood or to get baptised or as Jesus said, believe in Jesus for the sake of the works that Jesus did. But in my view putting out "believe in the finished work of Jesus" whilst at the same time saying that Lordship salvation is false is problematic because people seem to take this to mean that obedience is bad, or that they are not saved by obeying Jesus, and so coming to get confused or distrust scripture that says we are, or by taking **Hebrews 4** out of context and telling people to stop "doing good" because we've got to rest from serving God even though Hebrews 3:18-19 says they were disobedient and disbelieving and the crossreference to **I Cor 10** says they were idolators and lusted - they wanted to go back to Egypt, so they didn't continue on. Out of disbelief they disobeyed more, they sinned. Disbelieving was also disobedience. So they kept disobeying out of disbelief. They didn't trust God and so they didn't walk in it. And when people then say that we must obey Jesus, obey Righteousness, obey the Truth, obey Jesus' commandments, that comes with the response, "that's religious legalism" - these problems are caused by anti-lordship. I don't like the anti-lordship stuff.

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Devil Is Killing Christians With This One Lie {@Truthimus} I hate the devil. I hate the way he is killing some of you by persuading you it's legalistic to do regular, set aside, disciplined, praying. ... Telling you that it is legalistic to be as regular in your prayers as you are in your eating your food, ... in sleeping, in internet use.

Yeah, that but with regards to all or any of Jesus' commandments. We have to keep Jesus' commandments to abide in His love. And it's possible:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Keep in mind that when Jesus washed Peter's feet, Peter obeyed before he understood what Jesus was even doing. Yes, obedience leads to faith in Jesus, like the disciples in the wedding at Cana. We are saved by obedience to Jesus and we are saved by faith in Jesus. They're very much linked together.

John 13:6-7 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. (ESV)

So I just think this anti-lordship salvation is really really damaging to the gospel of Jesus and results in people not trusting in scripture, and moving towards promoting antinomianism. I think it's super, super damaging, personally. We can trust on verses, and trust in certain verses too and God's Word is reliable. Jesus is the judge

a person's faith trust, not me. I personally think we can indeed lean on the scripture, but we have to make an account of ourselves to God. By the way I do believe in the free grace of God but it teaches us to deny ungodliness.

I think trying to shoehorn the scripture into one person's understanding of the order of salvation and then present that as the truth and say that the Lordship salvation, say, is wrong because they interpreted the scripture in a way that doesn't fit their own understanding is really damaging because it's creating divisions. We are saved by obedience to Jesus, just as we are saved by our faith in Jesus.

Keep in mind these verses:

Romans 14:4 - Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? **It is before his own master that he stands or falls.** And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (ESV)

Matthew 7:2 - For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. (ESV)

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}

The word of truth is free, and carries its own authority, disdaining to fall under any skilful argument, or to entice But it would be **believed for its own nobility**, and for the confidence due to Him who sends it. Now the word of truth is sent from God; wherefore the freedom claimed by the truth is *not arrogant*. For **being sent with authority, it were not fit that it should be required to produce proof of what is said;** since **neither is there any proof beyond itself, which is God.** For every proof is more powerful and trustworthy than that which it proves; since what is disbelieved, until proof is produced, gets credit when such proof is produced, and is recognised as being what it was stated to be. But **nothing is either more powerful or more trustworthy than the truth;** so that he who requires proof of this is like one who wishes it demonstrated why the things that appear to the senses do appear. For the test of those things which are received through the reason, is sense; but of sense itself there is no test beyond itself. As then we bring those things which reason hunts after, to sense, and by it judge what kind of things they are, whether the things spoken be true or false, and then sit in judgment no longer, giving full credit to its decision; so also we refer all that is said regarding men and the world to the truth, and by it judge whether it be worthless or no. But the utterances of truth we judge by no separate test, giving full credit to itself.

For that reason, I would have more confidence before God if I was serving Him endeavouring to be pleasing to God through serving Jesus with a sincere faith, turning away from sin, renouncing ungodliness , loving the brethren, and trying to be holy and selfless and loving in faith towards Jesus, than if like a lawyer looking for a loophole I put confidence on doctrine but had no changed life / love for Jesus.

There is great confidence that comes from keeping a good conscience with God - having a relationship with God, being obedient to Him, doing what pleases Him. Obviously God's testimony is greater. Yes we're still saved by trusting in the finished work of Jesus but I mean what do they mean by saved when they say this? Do they mean they have finished being sanctified - I've heard this type of teaching at church. We're not saved to go on spreading dangerous heresy. Obedience to Jesus is trusting in JESUS! Was Marcion of Sinope saved even though he denied the father and the son etc. and went around teaching that and became like the most infamous heretic who the early church almost unanimously condemned aside from all the people he misled? What are we being saved from? We're not being saved from Jesus but to continue trusting and obeying Him. We're getting married to Jesus, and like it describes in Daniel, we probably will never stop serving Jesus. We're stopping trusting in sin and at the same time turning to trust in Jesus. Rejecting Jesus is sin, as is murder, lust, idolatry, blasphemy all sin. Those in Christ are not murderers of one another in the heart - we are saved to love one another in Christ sincerely. Those who do not have this love in their heart are NOT SAVED. It's heart obedience which is of the most importance and this happens through God cleaning the heart through faith. And if someone doesn't have true faith in Jesus then this probably hasn't happened to them and their heart hasn't been purified yet and they're probably not saved. That's nothing to do with the works we produce. God makes the new heart and gives the spirit in order to obey Him. Someone who has been saved has been given a repentant, obedient heart. We can repent from sin as an act of obedient faith to God:

Jeremiah 4:4 - Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 10:16-17 - Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (ESV)

It's simultaneous:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV):

Psalms 1:4-5 - The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; (ESV) We are literally saved by obedience to the gospel to continue trusting and obeying God, and what is that first step of obedience or belief or trust? I was born-again by sheer grace from God who did it to me after I called out to Him to be saved. I didn't earn my salvation. But the way I see it my salvation started before I knew it and the salvation is still going. I had to repent and I was taken to court and tested on Christ's law. My salvation is a process. Sanctification is a process. Salvation is in 3 tenses in the NT. Even then I only have faith that I've probably been justified, but it's not my own justification I have faith in but Jesus Christ Himself. I have as much confidence that God has justified me as I have that God has justified the person who believes they were saved when they first believed, and that's up to God. But Father God is the vinedresser.

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

30.3.1 We practice personal righteousness AND we have obtained a faith of equal standing with the Apostles by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

An entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will be richly provided, so long as you trust in Jesus Christ for His righteousness and are obedient to Him, supplementing your faith with virtue:

The knowledge of Jesus Christ our God and Saviour comes through His words and obeying them, by His power:

II Peter 1:1-11 - Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.f **His divine power** has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was **cleansed from his former sins.** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

30.3.2 Follow the commandments (get out of falsehood; forsake sin) and put your heart in Heaven

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

God wants us to love Him, treasure Him (25. agapaó), value Him with all our heart, and love and value
youtube.com: What Is It Like to Enjoy God? @time: 35 min 16 sec

Yeah, I agree with John Piper, for the most part. Loving God is not actually **first** working for God. But it is to truly desire God, and treasure Him (25. agapaó), and treasure His word, and treasure His commandments, to give Him due praise, and to honour God, and give Him the glory, to love Him in the affectionate and treasuring sense is what God wants of us, and Jesus says that if we love Him then we will keep His commandments. Where John Piper says 'affectionate love comes before obedience', I prefer to say that 'treasuring God includes a heart of obedience, trust, belief, desiring God, and affectionate love' and I also think that obedience (being in the will of God) may produce work for God but doesn't strictly mean work. We want to keep His commandments so I believe we should treasure God with all our heart. God also commands us to love one another as ourselves, so we should also love and value other people with that same treasuring love, but God wants Him to be our number one treasure, and I think we have to make God our number one love.

Praise youtube.com: First Love | Worship With Me And Friends {Praise Lubangu & Jake Hernandez}

As I understand it, **I John 5:2-3** isn't saying that God's commandments are universally unburdensome to all people. It's saying that when we love God then keeping His commandments is unburdensome. If we're struggling with keeping the commandments of God and struggling with sin then we should make Him our number one love heart's desire and treasure and seek Him first with all our heart and we will be able to find His commandments unburdensome! It's true.

I feel like I could still say, "**Loving God is obedience to God,**" but I would rather rephrase it as, "God in His love gifted me to be able to love Him back and live. I can see in retrospect He had been working in my life and it's awesome and magnificent and I just want to cherish and obey God now, and God made the way for me to do that!"

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that **we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**

AMEN!!

Deuteronomy 11:13-14 - And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.

I Kings 3:14 - And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.

AMEN!!

Obey God, put your heart in Heaven, follow Jesus.

Matthew 19:16-26 - And behold, a man came up to him, saying, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The young man said to him, All these I have kept. What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

AMEN!!

The guy thought he was obeying the commandments, but he still coveted his possessions, probably making an idol out of his money. I don't think he was really following the commandments **from the heart**. Also he wasn't prepared to give up his old life to follow Jesus.

Following Jesus is obeying his commandments.

We should follow Jesus and have purified hearts through faith in Jesus and receive the Kingdom from Father God. Jesus' flock are those who follow Him:

Psalms 73:1 - Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. (ESV)

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (ESV)

Luke 9:59-60 - To another he said, Follow me. But he said, Lord, let me first go and bury my father. And Jesus said to him, Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Luke 12:32 - Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (ESV)

Mark 1:17 - And Jesus said to them, Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men. (ESV)

Matthew 8:22 - And Jesus said to him, Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead. (ESV)

I Timothy 4:6 - If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. (ESV)

I Peter 2:21 - For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (ESV)

II Timothy 3:10-12 - You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-17 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. (ESV)

We now live for the will of God:

I Peter 4:1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

I Kings 15:5 - because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. (ESV)

30.3.3 Then arriving at eternal life - follow Jesus

Matthew 19:17-21 - And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The young man said to him, All these I have kept. What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

Romans 2:7-8 - to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

30.4 We are certainly supposed to keep the commandments - we're supposed to love God and our neighbour in truth

30.4.1 Keeping the commandments is how to love and Christian's are called to keep God's commandments

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. (ESV)

I John 2:1-6 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And **by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.** Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but **whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.** By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

Romans 13:9 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

AMEN!!

Galatians 5:14 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 λογός): You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

AMEN!! Loving your neighbour as yourself involves forgiving your neighbour, and not bearing a grudge.

I've heard it said Christians "do not need to follow the Golden Rule". But the Golden Rule is at the heart of Christ's law and even after being born-again and accepting forgiveness from God, we should walk in the light, following Christ's law. Applying love to the Golden Rule, we have the second of the great commandments, the Royal Law, which is to: "Love your neighbour as yourself". It's actually very important.

We are supposed to fulfill the Royal Law, even after having received forgiveness:

James 2:1 - My brothers, show no partiality **as you hold the faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)

James 2:8-9 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (ESV)

But we must love like Christ loved us in the knowledge that He loved us first. We must forgive our family in Christ, as we have been forgiven:

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

AMEN!!

James 2:8-13 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

AMEN!!

Romans 2:13 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers (4163. poiétés) of the law who will be justified. (ESV)

Yup - and in truth. I think the commandments often need to be looked at to see what loving looks like.

Romans 3:31 - Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

AMEN!!

Watch youtube.com: When You Become Chosen You Will Find Yourself Alone

30.4.2 It matters that we are loving, going into eternity

Matthew 5:30 - And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (ESV)

Matthew 18:3 - and said, Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:9 - And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

30.4.3 We must submit to the righteousness from God through faith in Jesus

Romans 10:3-5 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

Following Christ's law is how to love. Trusting in Jesus is having faith in Him.

Submitting to the righteousness that comes through having faith in Jesus is believing and obeying the Gospel.

30.4.4 All things are put under Jesus' feet whether we are compliant or understand it or not

The victory has already been won.

Jesus Christ has overcome the world and He is the head of all rule and authority.

Everything is in subjection to Jesus, God has left nothing outside Jesus' control.

From our perspective it may look like things are **still being brought into subjection to Him**. It still looks that way to me:

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)

Colossians 2:9-15 - For **in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily**, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Colossians 2:20 - If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—

Even from the believer's perspective, we have already won:

1 John 4:4 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (ESV)

Romans 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Father God is LORD of Heaven and Earth:

Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus declared, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

Luke 10:21 - In that same hour he rejoiced in **the Holy Spirit** and said, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

Acts 17:24 - The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

All things are placed under Jesus' feet:

Psalms 8:6 - You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

Colossians 2:15 - He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (ESV)

Jesus has already conquered:

Revelation of John 3:21 - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

In our own lives we conquer the enemy by the blood of the Lamb (the blood of Jesus Christ) and the word of our testimony:

Revelation of John 12:11 - And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

All things are under God's feet. In the LORD, all of the offspring of Israel shall be justified:

Isaiah 45:22-25 - Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance. Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory. (ESV)

Everything is in subjection to Jesus, God has left nothing outside Jesus' control.

From our perspective it may look like things are **still being brought into subjection to Him**. It still looks that way to me:

Ephesians 1:22 - And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

Hebrews 2:5-8 - Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting **everything in subjection to him**, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

Everything is put in subjection under Jesus and in subjection under Father God:

I Corinthians 15:24-28 - Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put **all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.** For God has put all things in subjection under his feet. But when it says, all things are put in subjection, it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Song youtube.com: Victor's Crown - Darlene Zschech {Official Live Video}

30.4.5 The Kingdom of Heaven - is a kingdom of servants

30.4.6 you must be holy!

The parable of the 10 virgins:

Matthew 25:1-13 - Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him. Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves. And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

When we repent from sin we allow Jesus' holiness to shine through us increasingly. Therefore, it's really not our own holiness or power that is responsible for miracles that happen through us or in cooperation with us, but it is Jesus' power and holiness. Jesus is the True Vine. We are the branches. AMEN!! We can do nothing apart from Him. AMEN!! Everyone who names the name of the Lord must depart from iniquity.

Polycarp 6:3 Let us therefore so serve Him with fear and all reverence, as He himself gave commandment and the Apostles who preached the Gospel to us and the prophets who proclaimed beforehand the coming of our Lord; being zealous as touching that which is good, abstaining from offenses and from the false brethren and from them that bear the name of the Lord in hypocrisy, who lead foolish men astray.

Our bodies are a vessel for Jesus' holiness to shine out of. It's the vessel of **the Holy Spirit**: Jesus is the light in us, and we must let our light shine.

30.4.7 you must be a servant!

The parable of the bags of gold:

Matthew 25:14-30 - For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more. His master said to him, **Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.** Enter into the joy of your master. And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him, You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.** In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

Eternal punishment vs eternal life:

Matthew 25:31-46 - When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For **I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.** Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, **as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.** Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying,

Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (ESV)

30.4.8 Deliverance for Jesus' servants

Isaiah 54:17 - no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD. (ESV)

31 Coming into the Body of Christ / into abiding in Jesus

When we do what Jesus says, it's as if Jesus is working through us. We are like a man building a house, but it is actually the Lord Jesus building it. A person must/should **do** what Jesus said:

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

Psalms 127:1 - Unless the **Lord builds the house**, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

We must throw out the old and allow God to build the new house/life for us. We must cooperate with God by doing what Jesus has instructed, and not fighting against Jesus' commandments.

We work, obediently serving God, but it's God working in us:

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

We must obey Jesus.

31.1 An infant in Christ - still of the flesh - not spiritual

Potentially still driven by:

- jealousy
- strife

I Corinthians 3:1 - But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. (ESV)

youtube.com: How to Restore a Sinning Saint: Galatians 6:1-5, Part 1 @time: 4 min 54 sec This is an illustration of why we need specific commandments. Remember last time I argued that it's not enough to say, "Walk by the Spirit." You need specific illustrations, and this (Galatians 6:1-5) is a good example of that. Suppose somebody said, "No, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, gentleness, self-control. If we live by those, we won't get in other people's lives and make lives miserable for them, and bring out their sin into the open. How would you answer that? We would answer it by saying, "Look, the Holy Spirit Himself in chapter 6, verse 1 of Galatians has told us that is not a right application of the fruit of the Spirit. You are drawing inferences from the fruit of the Spirit that are unbiblical; They're unfaithful. That's why we need the whole Scripture, not just vague statements about walking according to the Spirit or walking in love. We need specifics, and this is a specific. If you find

somebody in transgression, love is not passive. Love does not turn away. Love doesn't sweep it under the rug." - Rather, you who are **spiritual** (walking by the Spirit) should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. The spiritual person is bearing fruit of the Spirit. They are walking by the Spirit. They are keeping in step with the Spirit.

31.2 A disciple of Jesus - someone who has been obedient to Jesus

Jesus still refers to new disciples as "little ones". Disciples have been obediently following Jesus:

Luke 14:26-33 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate (3404. miseó, 3404 miséō – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

Look, here's a blessing for loving Jesus and not being an enemy of the cross:

Matthew 10:40-42 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. (ESV)

Disciples of Jesus carry their cross and face tribulation:

Acts 14:22 - strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Jesus, on His cross said, "I thirst.":

John 19:28 - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), I thirst. (ESV)

Paul the Apostle asked for mercy - "From now on let no one cause me trouble" - he might have been at little bit stressed. Paul most surely was carrying His cross:

Galatians 6:14-17 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. (ESV)

31.3 A person who is mature in Christ

Mature and stable. Grown beyond fleshly things. Not sucked into the old ways of vainglory and provocation and envy.

youtube.com: How to Restore a Sinning Saint: Galatians 6:1-5, Part 1 @time: 7 min 53 sec

Colossians 1:28 - Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (ESV)

The righteousness from God that depends on faith (obedient faith). We are found in Christ by exercising and passing forward Christ's love. Mature in Christ means knowing Jesus, the Truth, which necessitates obeying Him:

Philippians 3:8-17 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may **know him and the power of his resurrection**, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Let those of us who are mature think this way**, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. (ESV)

We progress in the Christian life practicing to distinguish good from evil:

I Corinthians 2:15 - The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9-14 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (ESV)

Jesus said to these believers that if they abide in His word (and I believe that means keep His word, even in obedience), they are His disciples - so a person can be a believer before they are a disciple. But we're supposed to make this transition:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuó, pepisteukotas) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

I believe that Simon the magician after initially believing the gospel and being baptised needed to continue in obedience to God, continue trusting in Jesus, turn away from wickedness, purify his heart, draw near to God and receive Holy Spirit and be sanctified. We're instructed to "draw near to God through Jesus Christ" to be saved:

James 4:8 - **Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:23-28 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

And they will **know** the Truth.

31.3.1 Don't be an enemy of the cross to others - Don't allow enemies of the cross to deter you, but rather pray for them

Polycarp 12:3 Pray for all the saints. Pray also for kings and powers and princes and for them that persecute and hate you and for the enemies of the cross, that your fruit may be manifest among all men, that ye may be perfect in Him.

We must be thinking as a person of Heaven.

- youtube.com: Live Like You Belong in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-21, Part 7

Philippians 3:18-21 - For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But **our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.** (ESV)

Galatians 15:16-18 - Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, **join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. (ESV)

31.4 Pray for others to come into Jesus' Kingdom

- youtube.com: Ducklings vs. Stairs

As we come into Jesus' Kingdom, we should be praying for and trying to lead others to come into Jesus' Kingdom.

Matthew 9:37-38 - Then he said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (ESV)

I Timothy 2:1-4 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of **God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** (ESV)

And build each other up to help each other attain unity of faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God:

Ephesians 4:12-13 - to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the **unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (ESV)

31.5 Don't abandon but support born-again, obedient, faithful disciples of Jesus, not pushing them back to worldly thinking

Support and encourage them for correction with regards to sound doctrine that is Scriptural, bearing their burdens as a disciple bears others' burdens, because it's a profound a real thing to be born-again of the Spirit and walk in obedience to Jesus, and the teachings of Christ are supposed to be followed by Christians.

Jesus still refers to new disciples as "little ones". Disciples have been obediently following Jesus:

Luke 14:26-33 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate (3404. *miseó*, 3404 *miséō* – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

Look, here's a blessing for loving Jesus and not being an enemy of the cross:

Matthew 10:40-42 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. (ESV)

Disciples of Jesus carry their cross and face tribulation:

Acts 14:22 - strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Jesus, on His cross said, "I thirst."

John 19:28 - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), I thirst. (ESV)

Matthew 5:12 - Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2-6 - **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)

32 Faith

One must have faith to receive the gift of salvation. Faith is belief and obedience. "By faith Abraham obeyed".

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, **Have faith in God.**

I like to think about faith in God as an equation like: Believing-God * Obedience/Action/Work/Love/PatientEndur

Mark 11:23 - Truly, I say to you, whoever **says to this mountain, Be taken up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart**, but believes that what he says **will come to pass**, it will be done for him.

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Abraham believed and obeyed to receive:

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was **to receive** as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Because we love and obey God, loving and obeying Jesus, we receive from God when we ask in faith:

I John 3:22 - and whatever we ask we receive from him, **because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.** (ESV)

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

33 Receiving *the Holy Spirit*

youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit @time: 48 min 13 sec "If anyone keeps Jesus' word, holds fast, treasures it, in obedience, that person will not be quenching the Spirit, that person will not be grieving the Spirit, but will know the fullness and sweetness of fellowship with the Father and the Son." - AMEN to that, John Piper

33.1 The Holy Spirit cleanses the heart by faith

Acts 15:7 - And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them **the Holy Spirit** just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

For example, out of faith in trying to follow the 10 Commandments / 2 Great Commandments, the heart is cleaned by **the Holy Spirit**.

Romans 13:8-11 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. (ESV)

Faith involves obedience. It's repentance from sin to the aligning of the heart to God's commandments.

33.2 The faith itself may be a gift, but certainly is cooperative

I believe that becoming the righteousness of God is **cooperative** when we begin trusting God through trusting Jesus and as we continue walking by faith, submitting to the righteousness of God (Jesus' righteousness), being found in Jesus and continuing to be found in Jesus, trusting in Him and not denying Him, letting Jesus wash us, and work in us and we working out our own salvation, transform us and purify us as we cleanse ourselves while trusting in Him, and that a childlike trust in Jesus (a believing and obedient trust), following Jesus, walking in faith, and behaving as one of God's children, following Jesus our Lord and Saviour is how we receive and walk into the kingdom which is given to us and that walking in a childlike faith in Jesus is how we have the righteousness that is by faith.

I believe we have righteousness because we are found **in** Him, and He is our High Priest and or Lord and King, and Saviour. Living by faith is a lifestyle to be found in Jesus and that's how we have righteousness from Him, because we are found **in** Him and are being perfected and sanctified (in genuine agape love and holiness) like a branch getting healthier because it's connected to Jesus. It does not mean we are able to displace Him as the head of the body because we don't have righteousness apart from Him (as far as I understand):

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God.** **Working together with him,** then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

A limited analogy If I had \$10 and wanted to help a person who asked for money, I could choose to give them only \$5 and wait around for the next person who needed money, or I could give the \$10 to the person who asked and then suggest to them that they ought to help someone else instead of use it all themselves. In this way, God gifts us the ability to gift others.

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

God and Abram (Abraham) had a real relationship first.

God spoke to Abram first, and then Abram **obeyed**. Abraham was faithful. God noticed Abram's faithfulness, and told Abram he would be rewarded. God gave Abram a promise. Abram believed God.

But God made the first move. The first move from Abraham's perspective was obedience, followed by belief.

The Lord God spoke first - this itself is a gift. We have the Bible and the testimony of others as a gift from God. We must then believe what is said in the Holy Scriptures and trust it and obey it (put into practice).

The Holy Spirit goes to those who obey God, and causes the person to walk in God's precepts - stopping lying, stealing, coveting, idolizing, cheating, etc.

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Faith involves:

- Obedience
- Loyalty (faithfulness to God)
- God rewarded Abram with a promise
- Abram believed God
- God counted Abram's belief as righteousness

Genesis 12:1 - Now the Lord said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Abraham **obeyed** God.

Genesis 12:4 - So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

God promised him something, and gave Abram an instruction.

Genesis 13:14 - The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.

Abram obeyed.

Genesis 13:18 - So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

OBEDIENCE!

Hebrews 5:9-10 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who **obey** him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Abram interacted with Melchizedek, priest of God Most High, blessed by God Most High. Abram was faithful to God even when God wasn't speaking directly to Him. God can see everything though.

Genesis 14:18-20 - And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand! And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Abram, in an act of faith with faithfulness, displayed loyalty to God. Abram wanted to prove it will be God who has empowered future blessing which Abram has faith about.

Genesis 14:21-24 - And the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself. But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich. I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.

The Apostle John's children/disciples were walking in love while walking in the truth, and rejecting offerings from Gentiles who were not walking in the truth:

III John 1:4-8 - I have no greater joy than to hear that **my children are walking in the truth**. Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who **testified to your love before the church**. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out **for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles**. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. (ESV)

God noticed and gave Abram a vision and made a promise to Abram, and Abram believed God and God counted it to Abram as righteousness:

Genesis 15:1-6 - After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." Then he believed (539. **aman**) in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. (NASB)

539. aman to confirm, support

33.2.1 Faith and works - they overlap and are *not* mutually exclusive!

James 2:22-25 - You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works**; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness-and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

A person, I think, can be justified by faith that includes obedient action.

Even continued belief in the form of patient endurance is a work, I think!

I believe justification is God's prerogative, and He justifies because of our faith in Jesus, not because of any dead work we offer Him. I just believe that faith in Jesus may include obedient action. Actually, I believe that even believing in Jesus is obedience, because Jesus commanded it.

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:16 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 3:24-26 - So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

But I think God can save a person who has belief without work because God is sovereign to save in this way. Anyway, see Revelation and you will see Jesus points out different works for different churches.

Revelation of John 2:2 - I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

Revelation of John 2:5 - Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Revelation of John 2:6 - Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Revelation of John 2:19 - I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

Revelation of John 2:22-23 - Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they **repent of her works**, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and **I will give to each of you as your works deserve**.

Revelation of John 3:1-2 - And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

Revelation of John 3:8 - I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Revelation of John 3:15 - I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!

33.2.2 The faith of Abraham looks like this. This is what salvation-accepting faith looks like

To be justified by working faith, a person must have the faith of Abraham. By faith Abraham obeyed. So the faith has the fruit of walking in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Salvation is received by faith - which necessitates an obedient heart:

Romans 3:25 - whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Faith receives - believing in Him is having faith in Him - trusting Him:

Acts 10:41-44 - not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that **everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.** While Peter was still saying these things, **the Holy Spirit** fell on all who heard the word. (ESV)

Although a gift, salvation must be asked for and sought after:

Luke 11:9-13 - And I tell you, **ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.** For **everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.** What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give **good gifts** to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!

Obeying God.

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the LORD said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (ESV)

Believing God.

Genesis 15:1-6 - After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great. But Abram said, O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir. And he brought him outside and said, Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. Then he said to him, So shall your offspring be. And he believed (539. aman) the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Conviction.

Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Like Abraham, a believer's faith may be tested:

Trust in God.,

Fear of God.,

Testable faith.

Genesis 22:9-14 - When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham! And he said, Here am I. He said, Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, The Lord will provide; as it is said to this day, On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.

Holding onto the promise, even to death if required.

Hebrews 11:13 - These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Like Abraham, a believer keeps the faith right to the end of their life or until Jesus takes them home:

*Patient endurance / waiting on God (belief * time).*

We should have **busy** (non-sluggish) faith, and imitate the faith of people such as Abraham, so that we inherit the promises. We can believe those promises which we inherit.

Hebrews 6:12-15 - so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, Surely I will bless you and multiply you. And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

Revelation of John 3:8 - I know your **works**. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have **kept my word and have not denied my name**. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie-behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about **patient endurance**, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

Song youtube.com: Sometimes By Step

33.2.3 The repentance of turning away from sin is an act of faith / a work of faith and also essential for eternal life, I think

Matthew 21:32 - For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him. (ESV)

To follow the law by faith, I think, is to not lie, commit adultery, idolize, etc. in truth and reality, keeping yourself accountable to God.

This is the key, I think, to following the law by faith: **praise from God and not men.**

Romans 2:29 - But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter; and **his praise is not from men, but from God.**

Actually complying with the law (not breaking it) is good:

James 4:11-12 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (ESV)

It's God who judges and gives mercy:

Romans 9:15-16 - For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

If a person is abiding by God's commandments then that is pleasing to God:

I Chronicles 29:17-19 - I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision. (ESV)

James 1:25 - But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

We should seek to be faithful to God who seeks our heart. It's about a real relationship with God:

Luke 16:15-17 - And he said to them, You are those who justify yourselves before men, but **God knows your hearts**. For **what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God**. The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

- John the baptist taught 'turn from sin and believe in the One to come':
 - **Acts 19:4** - And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. (ESV)
- Jesus taught to 'come to and believe in Him (Jesus) for forgiveness and forsake sin':
 - **John 8:11** - She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more. (ESV)

Acts 3:25-26 - You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. God, having raised up his servant, **sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.**

Stopping sinning is important from either angle.

I Corinthians 15:34 - Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and **do not go on sinning**. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (ESV)

- The apostles also taught people to turn from sin, believe and forsake sin.

John 5:14 - Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.

Sin leads to death:

Proverbs 6:32 - He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. (ESV)

John 5:14 - Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:20 - The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Examples of receiving forgiveness from Jesus.

Matthew 9:2 - And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.

Forgiven after Jesus saw their faith.

Mark 2:5 - And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, My son, your sins are forgiven.

Acts of faith.

Matthew 9:5 - For which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, **Rise and walk?**

Mark 2:9 - Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, **Rise, take up your bed and walk?**

Turning.

Mark 4:11-12 - And he said to them, To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should **turn** and be forgiven.

John 8:11 - She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.

33.3 Loving God is obedience to God

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that **we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**

33.4 The law

Matthew 19:4-9 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. (ESV)

Matthew 5:14-20 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.** Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Leviticus 18:22 - You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (ESV)

Romans 7:22 - For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

33.4.1 The law may be pursued by faith. Justification through faith

Faith eclipses the law:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Galatians 3:21-29 - Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

The ones under the law who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that Abraham had before he was circumcised, come under the umbrella of the faith of Abraham, which the Gentiles who also share the faith of Abraham are included within.

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6 Faith (Galatians 3:6-9)

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8 Those who Gentiles who share
9 pursue the law the faith
10 by faith of Abraham

Galatians 3:6-9 - just as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham**, saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed. So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (ESV)

If a son of Abraham repents from sin and forgives (return stolen goods) they can have salvation:

Luke 19:1-10 - He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today. So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, **Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.** And Jesus said to him, Today **salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (ESV)

We can start by believing what God told us through Jesus:

John 8:40 - but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. (ESV)

Romans 9:31-32 - but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

The most important thing though is faith because it applies to both the adherent of the law and also the Gentile who has faith. It seems like the adherent of the law must walk in the ways Abraham did before he was circumcised.

Romans 4:16 - That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring-not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the **faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all, (ESV)

Genesis 14:20-15:1 - and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand! And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. And the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself. But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich. I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share. After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great. (ESV)

Perhaps it is that James was himself circumcised and walked in the way that Abraham did before he was circumcised:

James 2:22-26 - You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:1-5 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.** Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Galatians 3:21 - Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. (ESV)

33.4.2 One in Christ Jesus - not excluding the adherent of the law

As far as I understand, a person can be a Jew or a Gentile and it's the same gospel, but they're having faith in Christ from two different vantage points:

Galatians 3:7-9 - Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham**, saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed. So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (ESV)

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and **not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring**, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. (ESV)

God can raise a person up to keep the precepts of the law with the faith of Abraham, and become a Jew:

Romans 2:25-29 - For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. So, **if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?** Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But **a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.** (ESV)

Proverbs 23:7 - For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. (KJV)

Romans 4:11-12 - He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him **the father of all who believe without being circumcised**, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him **the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.** (ESV)

John 8:39 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, **If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did,** (ESV)

Matthew 3:9 - And do not presume to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father, for I tell you, **God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.** (ESV)

Romans 10:12 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

I Corinthians 12:13 - For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and all were made to drink of **one Spirit.**

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all **one in Christ Jesus.**

33.4.3 But we are not justified by the law. We are justified by faith

Galatians 5:4 - You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

We receive **the Holy Spirit** through faith:

Galatians 3:2 - Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

But faith is obedient.

33.5 Mercy

Mercy is available from God, and there are some things we can do as we ask God for mercy:

Romans 9:15-16 - For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

Accept correction from God, and ask God for mercy to change to love God and your neighbour better:

Luke 18:13 - But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! (ESV)

Forgive others:

Matthew 6:12-15 - and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (ESV)

Be merciful to others:

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Be humble:

James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

33.6 The law is good, if used properly - and its usage is part of the gospel

1 Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

33.7 Both Father God and Jesus Christ God's Son have life in Himself and the power to resurrect

John 5:24-26 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (2064. erchomai) into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 5:21 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. (ESV)

33.8 Salvation in no-one else other than Jesus Christ - But we must obey the gospel, and walk in the Way

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (ESV)

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus has shown us the Way we have to **walk** in. The Way is Himself. To walk in it we make Him our Teacher and believe Him and obey Him, and arrive at the Truth, and the Truth is Himself.

Hebrews 10:19 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

Isaiah 30:20-21 - And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 - The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is **to him you shall listen** — just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die. And the LORD said to me, They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And **I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him**. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. (ESV)

John 12:49-50 - For **I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.** And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.

John 14:6-7 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

John 14:16-24 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

Jesus manifests to those who keep His word and obey Him:

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

I John 2:4-6 - Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

John 14:24 - Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

33.9 Anyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins

Acts 10:43: Of Him all **the prophets bear witness** that **through His name** everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

But before and/or after believing and being forgiven a person needs to also turn away from sin. To be '**saved**' I think means:

- for God to forgive one's sins through Jesus Christ, and
- for that person to be progressing towards holiness and not away from holiness - towards sanctification and ultimately, eternal life
 - **the Holy Spirit** helps a person to do that
- to be eagerly waiting for Jesus to save them

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but **to save those who are eagerly waiting for him**.

Becoming a slave of God, rather than sin, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and at the end, eternal life - it leads to knowing the only true God, and Jesus Christ who He sent.

Romans 6:16-22 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient **from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, **eternal life**. (ESV)

So obedience leads to sanctification which leads to eternal life which is knowing God and Jesus Christ.

Repentance from sin is required step for those who are in sin, along with forgiveness, and is followed up with sanctification and eternal life.

Luke 15:7 - Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (ESV)

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

33.9.1 Eternal life *available* for all who believe in Jesus, but obedience and sanctification is necessary

John 3:14-18 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

I believe there is a strong emphasis on continued belief, and becoming a bondservant of God.

- 'may have'
- 'should' not perish

After being born-again and placed into Christ, we must put to death the old leaven. We consider ourselves dead to sin and alive from the dead.

We continue trusting, believing Jesus Christ and we will never die.

A believer in Jesus Christ though he dies, he shall live:

- Whoever believes in Jesus Christ, though he die, yet shall he live.

Everyone who lives and believes in Jesus Christ shall never die.

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? (ESV)

desiringgod.org: Invincible in Christ: How Believers Never Die | Desiring God

34 Spiritual gifts

I Corinthians 12:28-31 - And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (ESV)

34.1 Excel in building up the church to see manifestations of the Spirit

I Corinthians 14:12 - So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

34.2 Using one's mind to speak to others intelligible words in the church is not subordinate to speaking in tongues

I Corinthians 14:19 - Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

34.3 Rebuking Marcionism

I've noticed some pretty bad heresy floating around the churches which may come from Marcionism. Sadly it seems, doctrines of Marcionism seem to be quite prevalent these days in the church. I personally believe there is no antithesis between Lordship and Free grace. I think that probably comes from Marcionism. We are saved to serve God. The followers of Jesus are able to be taught by Christ and corrected - they hear Jesus' voice and follow Him - and that includes repentance (turning away) from sin - it's Lordship. The Apostle Paul taught Lordship.

Apparently, Marcion perverted teachings of the oracles of the Lord such as the Apostle Paul, and led many astray.

Polycarp 6:3 For every one who shall not confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is antichrist: and whosoever shall not confess (G3670 homologeó) the testimony of the Cross, is of the devil; and whosoever shall pervert the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts and say that there is neither resurrection nor judgment, that man is the firstborn of Satan.

thegospelcoalition.org: Marcion and Getting Unhitched from the Old Testament Marcion was one of the most successful heretics in the early church. He was opposed by everyone who was anyone.

For nearly a century after his death, he was the arch-heretic, opposed by Polycarp (who called him the firstborn of Satan), Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement, Tertullian, Hippolytus, and Origen.

He was one of the few heretics that the Greek and Latin Christians united in condemning.

After his excommunication, he traveled around the world as a missionary for his version of Christianity.

And he won a lot of converts.

According to Tertullian, he planted churches as "wasps make nests," teaching men "to deny that God is the maker of all things in heaven and earth and the Christ predicted by the prophets is his Son." Marcion's church was rigorous, demanding, inspiring, well-organized, and for about a century fairly successful.

Marcion's theological errors (and there were many) came from one main root: he refused to believe that the God of the Old Testament was the same as the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Marcion simply could not believe in a God full of wrath and justice.

So he threw away the Old Testament and took for his Bible a truncated version of Luke's Gospel and selectively edited versions of Paul's epistles.

When all the cutting and pasting was finished, Marcion had the Christianity he wanted: a God of goodness and nothing else a message of inspiring moral uplift a Bible that does away with the uncomfortable bits about God's wrath and hell.

Marcionism was antinomian, idealistic about human potential, and skittish about dogma and rules.

So yeah, I just rebuke that spirit of Marcionism in Jesus Christ's name.

youtube.com: HUGE Warning in the Bible! Don't be deceived!? #churchhistory #warning {@OutsideT

Jude warns that it's the grace of God that's going to be under attack, that men would take this amazing doctrine to a place that was never intended, to justify lawlessness.

So what was Marian's heresy? His principal doctrine was that Christianity was built on a gospel of love to the exclusion of any law - God is a god of love and not a god of justice and wrath. Marcian had seen a dichotomy between what he referred to as the "Old Testament god" and the "New Testament god".

The New Testament god was the god of the Christians, and the Old Testament god was the god of the Jews.

In Marian's gospel the New Testament God saves us from the old testament God and His burdensome law and therefore it had no place in the Christian Life. Does any of this language sound familiar to you today? Christians are told today by preachers behind the pulpit that the aw has no place in their life because it was Old Testament.

"Oh, you think I should keep the Sabbath? Well that's Old Testament - we're not under the law we're under grace."

The fact of the matter is they're right it is Old Testament. Do not steal - that's from the Old Testament. Do not commit adultery - that's Old Testament. Laws against committing beastiality - that's in the Old Testament.

The gospel of the grace of God is not a message that's opposed to the law of God, it's quite the opposite.

34.4 I was tested today <2024-11-24 Sun>

Today <2024-11-24 Sun>, I was under test, over the passage of I Cor 14:18-40.

I attended Elim Church in the morning and the message was about speaking the truth in love, so that is what I will try to do here.

34.4.1 Prophesy etiquette

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

I'll let the Didache speak for itself here But not every one who speaks in the Spirit is a prophet but only if he holds the ways of the Lord. Therefore from their ways shall the false prophet and the prophet be known. And every prophet who orders a meal in the Spirit does not eat it, unless he is indeed a false prophet. And every prophet who teaches the truth, but does not do what he teaches, is a false prophet. And every prophet, proved true, working unto the mystery of the Church in the world, yet not teaching others to do what he himself does, shall not be judged among you, for with God he has his judgment for so did also the ancient prophets. But whoever says in the Spirit, Give me money, or something else, you shall not listen to him. But if he tells you to give for others' sake who are in need, let no one judge him.

I think when it comes to "reliable prophesy", that prophet has to be keeping the ways of the Lord (i.e. keeping Jesus' commandments, and walking in holiness).

34.4.2 Woman pastors

Journal <2025-05-18 Sun> Although I do not agree with the practice and I trust the Apostle Paul's word that it's a commandment from the Lord that women should "not speak" in church, behind a pulpit or in office, I think is the idea, I also think it's a secondary issue. If it's one of Christ's commandments, then it's important, but it's still not the most important of His commandments. Far important would be to believe He's the Son of God and to agape love one another as He has loved us, for example.

I think saying "neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female" is Paul exhorting people to see that those who have been baptized into Christ are members of Christ, and have an identity in Christ which transcends the worldly categories, similar to saying that a slave has an identity in Christ and so earthly masters should be wary of that fact, being aware that a person in Christ Jesus has an identity that totally transcends the worldly divisions between people:

Galatians 3:25-29 - But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have

put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

Colossians 3:22 - Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (ESV)

Just because a woman person may have an identity in Christ as a son of God (as Paul says neither male nor female), this transcendent reality is not a reason to pervert the natural order of things regarding natural gender. Paul is certainly not endorsing LGBT, etc. or same-sex marriage, and certainly not endorsing that slaves should not submit to their earthly master (**Titus 2:9-10**):

Titus 2:9-10 - Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. (ESV)

Interestingly, I think Jesus is implying by saying that the sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, that a woman may be considered a "son of this age", and it really gets me thinking about what that word 'son' is being used to mean. It's not a natural gender thing:

Luke 20:33-36 - In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife. And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead **neither marry nor are given in marriage**, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are **sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.** (ESV)

Firstly, the passage regarding confusion in I Cor 14:33, I'm convinced is regarding prophesy, and not about woman speaking in churches:

I Corinthians 14:29-33 - Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. ~~As in all the churches of the saints,~~ (ESV)

Paul's precept I would encourage. Since it's Christ's commandment, it's important, and I believe it's important to be corrected by the truth. I don't teach against it but at the same time we are accountable personally to Jesus Christ for whatever we disagree with Him about:

I Corinthians 14:33-38 - ~~For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.~~ As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. (ESV)

This is difficult for me because Paul makes it clear that it's a commandment from the Lord:

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

Following on in <2024-11-24 Sun>, I then attended another pentecostal church (which I have been attending the last month), and a woman delivered today's message. Yesterday I had added the section below on "tongues etiquette" and I realised this evening that I'm being tested on I Corinthians 14:33-38, particularly in regards to woman speaking in church and on the tongues etiquette, and it is very important that I affirm the Apostle Paul

here, and I believe that his command from the Lord Jesus is backed up and after my experience today, I am compelled to affirm the truth of the command.

Firstly, I will just mention that I have heard some great sermons that have come from woman, even recently. But, I still do not affirm the practice.

I have been tested today on **I Cor 14**, and I have to take today's events consideration.

The "gratitude activating grace" message which I heard today by a woman pastor gave me some chilling red flags.

youtube.com: ? What the Bible REALLY Says About Women as Church Leaders {@HeavenlyMindedHc}

Headship involves responsibility and loving leadership, not domination. Look at Ephesians 5:22 and 24. And we'll look at the marriage parallel here. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church, his body of which He is the Savior. Now, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

So the husband wife relationship mirrors Christ in the church. The study and understanding of marriage in that imagery of Christ in the church, a husband and a wife. I mean it's it's fascinating. Fascinating study. The same principle of loving headship applies in church governance. Submission is not about capability or worth but about God's design for order. And we have to understand this when we look at this topic. So what are the qualifications for church leadership? Well, let's go to 1 Timothy, right? Chapter 3:1-7. Here's a trustworthy saying. Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him. And he must do so in a way that earns respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a recent convert or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. What is one of the biggest issues with the modern day church today? [It's] that people in leadership, pastors of churches are not staying true time and time again to 1 Timothy 3, here.

The NLT translation was mostly used, and Romans 3:24 was brought up. I don't affirm the NLT translation.

Romans 3:24 - and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

For example, the NLT here affirms that **we were** already justified. But the Scripture does not strictly say that. We are justified through faith in Jesus, and God is the justifier of who has faith in Jesus. Thus, the NLT is a bad translation because it's twisting the truth even in this verse.

Romans 3:24 - Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus **when** he freed us from the penalty for our sins. (NLT)

The sermon spoken today came across as cheap-grace/hyper-grace mixed with the "law of attraction" to me. Now I do understand that we must give thanks to God.

Grace through faith comes before gratitude, not the other way around. Gratitude isn't the activator of grace, but faith is!

Luke 17:11-19 - On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. When he saw them he said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And he said to him, Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

Another thing that was said was that all believers are saints. Now, that is more controversial but I'm going to go with my current understanding of Scripture and say that I do not affirm that all believers are saints. Even the demons are 'believers' in a sense, but they don't abide in the love of God because they don't keep Jesus' commandments. The saints from what I can see from Scripture are those who keep their faith in Jesus and **also** the commandments of God, and while Jesus' yoke is light, the full yoke of the Lord pulls a very weighty load - it's called **carrying one's cross**. Saints carry their cross and will judge the world, therefore, the saints are not cheap-grace believers - they're disciples of Jesus who keep His commandments. Therefore, Saints keep Christ's law and help carry others' crosses. **Not all 'believers' do this**, sorry.

<2025-09-07 Sun> So saints would be believers who have received the love of the truth. They love Jesus, they love the light, more than (rather than) darkness and they endeavour to keep God's commandments for them.

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

Quote by Charles Spurgeon All are "saints" whom God has called by His grace **and sanctified** by His Spirit;

John 15:10 - **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are **faithful in Christ Jesus**:

Revelation of John 12:17 - Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those **who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus**. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Revelation of John 14:12 - Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those **who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus**.

Psalms 97:10 - **O you who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints**; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

I John 5:3 - **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments**. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

I am increasingly of the opinion that there is a subtle difference between simply 'believer' and 'saint' who is also a believer. Believers are forgiven through Jesus' name. Saints both believe and keep God's commandments, carrying their cross. Saints are disciples of Jesus who have been sanctified by the Truth. Believing disciples of Jesus may become saints:

II Thessalonians 1:9-12 - They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be **marveled at among all who have believed**, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may **fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

A saint is someone who has faith in Jesus and also loves as God commanded. Not people who are unfaithful to Jesus - not merely a believer but someone who gives up their life for Jesus.

Ephesians 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are **faithful in Christ Jesus**: (ESV)

I read the commandments as being the Great commandments, 10 Commandments and faith in Jesus Christ, and potentially various other commandments from the Mosaic law if you know about them, or whatever subset a person practices by faith making themselves accountable to God.

I have to agree with the Apostle Paul here:

I Corinthians 14:33-38 - For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.
If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. (ESV)

34.4.3 Woman pastors (Heavenly Minded Home ministry)

I've copied most of Heavenly Minded Home's transcript here for this video. It's really sound and helpful teaching from Heidi, a pastor's wife who is running this ministry. Thanks Heidi.

youtube.com: What the Bible REALLY Says About Women as Church Leaders {@HeavenlyMindedHome}

I commented: Thank you. I am in essentially full agreement with this, and thanks for this. I'm recently born again and God has been teaching me and testing me. I love how you talked about how women have calling to teach the children. And I learned a lot from this video. However 1 tiny thing I'd like to say is that I believe that woman in the Lord may be considered to be "sons" of God. The Biblical basis for this is... Just because a woman person may have an identity in Christ as a son of God (as Paul says neither male nor female), this transcendent reality is not a reason to pervert the natural order of things regarding natural gender. Paul is certainly not endorsing LGBT, etc. or same-sex marriage, and certainly not endorsing that slaves should not submit to their earthly master (**Titus 2:9-10**). Interestingly, I think Jesus is implying by saying that the sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, that a woman may be considered a "son of this age", and it really gets me thinking about what that word 'son' is being used to mean. It's not a natural gender thing:

Luke 20:33-36 - In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife. And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead **neither marry nor are given in marriage**, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are **sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.** (ESV)

...

So, it all starts here with the foundation. We have to go to God's order in creation in order to truly understand this topic.

Genesis 2:18-22 - Then the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (ESV)

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife and they become one flesh. So a few key observations here we have to see. Adam was created first then Eve as his helper. That's the Hebrew word Ezar. The term helper doesn't imply inferiority. Right? God himself is called our helper. So it's not that woman is inferior to man. No, there is just a created order. We see here that in doing so, this is where we see the establishment of this pattern of complimentary roles from creation. Okay, God is a God of order. There's a system and Paul is going to specifically appeal to this created order in his teaching about church leadership. So if we want to understand this topic, we have to go back to the very beginning because we're going to see it come to complete, you know, just order in our understanding because in 1 Timothy 2, let's look at 12-14, Paul is going to break this down.

I Timothy 2:12-14 - I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. (ESV)

This is what should make this case done and done. We're going to dig in deeper to make sure we're thoroughly understanding it and looking at the counterarguments to this and all of it. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man. Paul grounds his instructions in creation order, not some sort of cultural circumstance. He goes all the way back to the very creation of woman. We see here that his going back to that and bringing it back to Adam and Eve means that this wasn't just some sort of like temporary who he was talking to in that moment, but a universal truth for the church regardless of time, location, anything else. Because the Greek word for authority, authento, if I'm saying that correctly, means to exercise dominion or have authority over. Okay? "Teach", here, refers to authoritative doctrinal instruction in the church assembly. Yes, are we all male, female, young, old, , whatever? Are we all called to be able to give an account for why we believe what we believe? Yes, absolutely. Do women have very specific roles and callings? Yes, absolutely. And we're going to get into that here in a minute. But we're talking about exercising dominion or having authority over the *church* as a group and teaching being that authoritative doctrinal instruction to the church assembly. That's what we're talking about if we're talking about pastor, right? This role, this special designation, okay. So, let's look at the principle of headship before we get into the qualifications for church leadership.

I Corinthians 11:3 - But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (ESV)

What do we see here in this passage? Well, God operates through ordered relationships. He just does. He is a God of order. There is a system. There is a process. You see it from Genesis to Revelation over and over and over and over again. Okay? His created design is everywhere. And we understand this because we understand the need for good leadership in order and system in our world. What happens to a massive corporation when their leadership goes off the rails and is falling apart? The whole thing crumbles and falls apart. So we understand that here from a worldly standpoint. Well, the only reason why it exists is because God created it. We see that 'headship' does not mean 'superiority'. It's this feminist movement that has rooted itself within the church that we just want women to be able to take over everything because feminists do not want 'equality'. They want 'domination'. And that has made its way into the church as well. Saying that man is the head of woman does not

mean that he is *superior*, because we also see that the head of Christ is God. So how can Christ submit to the Father yet be fully God Himself? Right? It obviously isn't meaning "superior to". This principle applies to the church structure and family relationships. A wife is subject to her husband just as children are subject to their parents. Okay? Again, proper order makes a difference. Headship involves responsibility and loving leadership, not domination. Look at Ephesians 5:22-24 and 24. And we'll look at the marriage parallel here.

Ephesians 5:22-24 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (ESV)

So the husband wife relationship mirrors Christ in the church. The study and understanding of marriage in that imagery of Christ in the church, a husband and a wife. I mean it's it's fascinating. Fascinating study. The same principle of loving headship applies in church governance. Submission is not about capability or worth but about God's design for order. And we have to understand this when we look at this topic. So what are the qualifications for church leadership? Well, let's go to 1 Timothy, right? 3:1-7.

I Timothy 3:1-7 - The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. (ESV)

What is one of the biggest issues with the modern day church today is that people in leadership, pastors of churches are not staying true, time and time again, to 1 Timothy 3, here. So many times when you look at churches who have gotten wonky, it's there's lots of issues going on within. You can bring up this passage here and go through it and say, [are] your overseers, your pastors, right, the leaders of the church, are they walking in accordance to the instruction that they are called to? And 9.99999 times out of 10, they are not. And then everything is just off the rails from there. This is the core understanding of what it means to be a pastor. That authority position over the church body. The qualifications here consistently use masculine pronoun and references. So we already see I do not permit a woman to teach or hold authority over the church. And then who *can* hold authority over the church? "He", "he", "he". Right? We constantly see it is talking about a man because he's already said this is not a place for a woman, it is a place for a man. And gave reasons why, but now we're following this up, right? We're using scripture to interpret scripture. If I take scripture and put it through the lens of more scripture, am I going to come out with the same answer? That's what we want to do. That's how we truly discern. I don't want to just pick things and make it say what I want it to say. I want to take the understanding that I have. I want to put it through more filters of God's word and see if the same understanding still comes out at the end. Faithful to his wife. Literally, it's a one woman man. If that's one of the requirements, how would women do that? Because, if a woman is faithful to his wife, I like how does that even work? Family leadership is a prerequisite, right? Managing his household well. We're seeing here that these aren't just cultural accommodations. They're *spiritual* qualifications. Let's go to Titus chapter 1. Let's look at 5-9 about appointing the elders. Okay.

Titus 1:5-9 - This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (ESV)

He writes there, "The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town as I directed you."

Remember, you go through the epistles, these letters written by Paul, Peter, John, James, right? You go through all these different letters and you see time and time again, what they were doing was helping the early church understand how to be the church, right? How to do these different things. And so you see this time and time again of them, "Hey, remember this is what we were working on. This is what I told you. This is what you need to do. This is how you deal with this problem. This is how you put this together."

And so we take that and what can we learn from that of how this should be walked out here today. An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Okay, so we just saw this up above in his letter to Timothy. These are the pastoral epistles, right?

Just as a note It's obvious to me that satan has tried to ensnare me like I Tim 3:7 mentions, maybe to prevent me from being used in such a way.

Literally written, how does the church run? How does this work? And now here in Titus, continuing on this, he's repeating the same stuff, right? He's saying the same thing just to a different group of people at a different time. But it's the same message. Blameless, faithful to his wife whose children believe and who are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Because again, he should be managing his household well. Therefore, since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless, not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine, and refute those who oppose it. Again, you see the problem we have in the modern church, so often, is that the appointed elders, overseers, pastors are not living these things out. That's where we have problems. Every single time leadership in church turns from the direct calling of scripture to their lives, the church starts to fall apart. And that even includes those who refuse to oppose false teaching. That's another topic. I know you talk about false teachers and people go, "Oh, you're just being mean to them. Don't say anything mean about anyone. The Lord will work it out. We're supposed to be all loving... Refute those who oppose it, right?

Amen Amen

Like sound doctrine, true teaching, that's another big topic. You want to learn more, leave me your comments and questions, put your little fish emoji because that's a big topic. But in this appointing of elders that we see in Titus, we see a consistent pattern here. Again, same masculine language, same family leadership requirements, it's written to different churches in different places, and he's I mean, these letters are going out at various times. So obviously, there's universal application here. Not only is he bringing it back to the creation of all humankind, but he's telling everybody the same thing regardless of where they're at. Elders and overseers are the same office. Okay? So, we see that in Acts 20. You look at verse 17-28. Elders, overseers, pastors, right? Those holding positions of authority. That's what we're talking about.

Acts 20:17-28 - Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (ESV)

Let's look at some direct instructions about women in the church. So, can women be pastors? hold the authority, elders, overseers, right up here. Well, clearly it's saying no. So, what do the women do?

I Timothy 2:11-12 - Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. (ESV)

And the feminist bone in every single one of us that came from the curse out of the garden where we would desire to rule over our husbands just lights up inside of us and makes us women go, "Oof, this is my least favorite verse in the entire Bible. Let's pretend like it doesn't exist." That's what happens so often. I get it. But let's understand quiet and submission. The Greek word here which I am going to absolutely butcher if I try to pronounce means quietness, peaceful demeanor, not just "absolute silence" (to understand it as "absolute silence" would be not accurate).

Remember we talked about in should we only be reading the King James version Bible and understanding translations and how this works and how it's a really difficult process to like take a word from one language that we don't actually have an exact match for in ours. And so we have to kind of like pick the best thing. And that's why it's always best to look at multiple translations to really understand sometimes especially for these tricky passages like how that all works together. Quietness, peaceful demeanor, which goes hand in hand with this understanding of men are to hold the authoritative headship over the church and women in their proper place under that. So if I am learning in that proper headship, I have a peaceful demeanor about it. I'm not taking over that role, right? I'm not coming in. We see the same word used here for men in 1 Timothy 2:2.

I Timothy 2:2 - for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. (ESV)

There is a peaceful demeanor that we (women) bring, not one of authority, not one of confrontation, not one of just brashness, quietness, and peaceful demeanor. Submission here refers to recognizing God's established order.

...

The prohibition is specifically about teaching men in the church and exercising authority over them. This is that key point here. 1 Corinthians 14, let's look at the second half there, 33 and 35.

I Corinthians 14:33-35 - For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. (ESV)

As in all the congregations of the Lord's people, women should remain 'silent' in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission as the law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home. For it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. It's got to be our feminist boned in us. That's got to be our second least favorite passage in the Bible, right? What does that mean? Well, this follows Paul's instructions about prophecy in tongues. Okay? Silent here is relating to judging the prophecies.

Women participated in worship, Absolutely. Right. Go to 1 Corinthians 11:5.

I Corinthians 11:5 - but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as if her head were shaven. (ESV)

The issue is that authoritative evaluation of the teaching. The role for coming in with the authority and doing anything within the body of the church is reserved for the men. It is not the women's role to come in with authority over men in the church. So let's look at the counter-arguments here because this is where people go whoa, whoa, whoa, but what about, but what about, right? It has said multiple times now I do not permit a woman to teach, I do not permit a woman to hold authority, I do not permit a... right? We keep seeing that, just read through them. And this is where everybody comes in and goes well what about well what about, well what about. Well, let's look, let's see what about. "These were just cultural restrictions that this referred to them, it doesn't apply now... things are different." That's one argument we hear. So, let's see, Paul's appealing to creation order, right? We started with that. He's not talking about cultural circumstances. If he can bring it back to the very creation of woman, then I think it applies to us here today because we're still created women, right?

Amen Amen

The same principles appear in multiple letters to different churches, different locations, different cultures, different times. It's across the board. He does not change even a little bit in what he's saying. He's saying the same thing repeated over and over and over again.

We have no textual indicators suggesting that these were temporary instructions, right? Other cultural practices like head coverings, they're explicitly tied to culture, but *these* were tied to creation. And so there's a big key difference here that we see. Whenever we read through the epistles, we read through these letters, we have to understand the context. And we do this, you need to do this with all Scripture and understanding the context. Who was it written to? Why was it written? What is the purpose? All scripture is useful for teaching, okay? All scripture is important and useful, but you have to understand the context. So instead of just putting yourself in whatever position you want to, it's important to understand *who* was it written to, *why* was it written, *what* was the purpose, and *how* can I learn from this? And so we have to understand that we can't just take something and make it be 'absolutely relevant to everything that I want in every situation where I'm at here today'. Reading through the letters is just that you're reading through someone else's mail. Now, yes, much of it was written to the church as a whole until the Lord returns and we are reunited with him. This is instruction and teaching for the church. But there are some things that are directly addressing situations and things that were going on with those people at that time because we're "reading somebody's mail". Okay?

Now, many of these letters were going out to a certain church and then saying, "Hey, continue passing them around." Right? This is the early church curriculum of how we church. Some things are Paul making sure that somebody knows he needs his winter coat and hey, when you come down this way, make sure you bring it with you. Okay? So there are specific things included in these letters in certain passages that are to those people answering very real things that they were facing. Some things are more tied to the specific cultural time-sensitive things that were going on. Now we can still learn from them, but it doesn't mean that it's going to necessarily "apply" here in 2025 in modern day America. I can learn from it because all scripture is God breathed and usable for teaching and reproof and all of the stuff, that's fantastic. But not everything is necessarily going to connect to exactly what we're dealing with today.

But you bet your bottom dollar that if he is going back to the very creation of a woman, that that's something that's going to continue.

Amen Amen

Okay. If he keeps repeating the same ideal about that's most likely important for you and I here today. Okay. What about the argument that women leaders in scripture prove that women can be pastors? People go, "Oh, well, we've had many women in leadership roles in scripture. So obviously that means that women *can* be pastors. Well, go to Deborah, right? She's the one you hear usually first and foremost. That's in Judges 4. Let's look at 4 and 5. Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Laped, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the palm of Deborah between Raman and Bethl in the hill country of Ephereim. And the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided.

Deborah was placed into the role of judge over Israel. This is back during the time of the judges. The reason why Deborah is one, that's a whole another story that we can get into. But Deborah was a judge over Israel and not a church pastor. Okay? They're not the same thing.

This was before the establishment of the church in the order. They are removed from one another by thousands of years. Her role was civil in military leadership, not church spiritual authority. Even she deferred to Barack for military leadership. Okay.

Can women be president, be queen, be what? Like sure, yeah, those things can happen. That is not church spiritual authority.

And so when we look to Deborah, yes, Deborah was put in a role of leadership, but that is not connected to thinking that we can throw away everything we just read as Paul was, you know, putting together understanding of the headship of the church and therefore make that say that women can be like they're not connected. It has nothing to do with being a pastor or holding authority in a church role here today. Just because Deborah was a judge over Israel, they don't connect.

What about Phoebe? We see her in Romans 16.

Romans 16:1-2 - I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. (ESV)

Phoebe is an amazing case study. I love the story of Phoebe. She was a deacon. That means that she was literally a servant of the church here. That's not an elder or a pastor. That is not a role of authority over the church. Being a deacon is different from being an elder or an overseer. Phoebe was a very successful businesswoman. She had plenty of resources and she happily served the church through her giving of her resources. Use my home, right? We can assume from her success that she had a nice home. She had a lot of space. She used what she had and was the benefactor of many people. She took her worldly success and poured it into the church and said, "How can I serve here? How can I do good for the largecale cause here of the church?" She was not the pastor, right? She was not the overseer. She was not in this authority role. Instead, she was one of the ultimate servants, a deacon of the church, being able to take what she had that the Lord had blessed her with and be a faithful steward to use what the Lord entrusted to her in her earthly success and pour it right back into the needs of the church.

What about Priscilla? Priscilla is another amazing one. Our time in ministry, my husband and I literally called it A&P because we were so inspired by the testimony here of Aquila and Priscilla. Go to Acts 18:26.

Acts 18:26 - He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (ESV)

We see here that Priscilla taught alongside of her husband. They worked together in everything that they did. Aquila and Priscilla, again, fascinating, fascinating characters in scripture to dig into. If you've ever watched the movie um Paul, I think it's called like Paul, an apostle of Christ, you see them in it a lot. It is really cool to see and kind of get that idea and that understanding there of them, and they taught alongside. But together, with her husband in a private setting. Like she wasn't co-pastor with her husband and that's why I bring that up of our time in ministry. Because, did I teach and work and was I the helper to my husband alongside of him throughout our time in that? Absolutely, 1000%! I was never a co-pastor. I was never in some sort of authority role. My husband and his associate pastor were the headship. Now, me and the associate pastor's wife, we were supports. We helped, but never ever in any way, shape, or form in a role of authority. And that's what we see here with Priscilla. This wasn't public church teaching or exercising authority over men. Private instruction is different from formal church leadership. Should we as women be able to have private instruction? Should we be able to discuss why we believe what we believe and how we understand it and be able to give an account for what we believe? Of course, absolutely. Every single believer should be able to give the gospel message, to be able to share it with anyone they come across, to be able to give an account for why they believe the things that they believe and share truth with those that the Lord puts into their path. Amen. Amen. Amen. I know I've talked about this before and people go, "Oh, well, you're on YouTube, so aren't you trying to be a pastor?" Not in the slightest. Never, ever, ever in a million years. I love that I've been given a space here for the past "nearly 8 years". My heart is really in sharing with women. Over the years, a lot of the husbands have kind of come in because we're talking about the home. It is literally called "Heavenly Minded Home", because I want to talk about things that I'm going through that I'm learning that I'm facing that I'm seeing through my walk with the Lord, and share them with you as a place here to say, hey, you're watching this in your home, right? I am in my home and I'm saying, "Hey, how do we pour into our homes to be more heavenly minded?" In no way shape or form am I the authority on anything. I'm just a little old housewife homeschool mom wanting to dig into scripture and have real conversations with friends that I make here along the line and say, "How do we do this? How do we build our homes up? How do we tackle those difficult and even messy topics that nobody else wants to? How do we go to God's word?" Because **that's** the authority, not anything of me. And never in a million years are you going to see me step into a church into a role of authority and be teaching over the men and putting myself in that role because that's not where I'm to be. And I want to be in accordance with God's word, which means submitting to his authority, His created order.

Amen Amen

What about seeing Galatians 3:28? Some people use this to say that this eliminates role distinctions. Okay, Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

And people go, "Well, then why does it even matter what can men do? What can women do? Like there's no distinction between men and women, so we can all do whatever we want to do." Well, this verse is addressing salvation and standing before God. He's saying here that when we all stand before the Lord, we're not going to be categorized, oh, who came from the line of Judah, who is a Gentile, get in your proper lines. We're not going to say, oh, who was, you know, a slave and who was free, who was male, who was female. Like, we don't line up in boy girl lines at the pearly gates to go in before the Lord in his throne room. That's what he's talking about there. He's not saying that there is no difference between men and women. There's no difference between Jew and like Gentile. That's not what he's saying. Equal worth doesn't mean identical roles. Paul wrote both this verse and 1 Timothy 2:12, right? So, how did Paul talk so much about headship and submission and men and women and specific roles if he's also saying that it doesn't matter if you're male or female? Like that that just doesn't check out.

Again, we can't take specific verses to build up our case if they don't hold up against the scrutiny of being put through more scriptural filters. Right? Scripture interprets scripture. And so if you're going to make a case off of a verse, but then when adding in more verses, it falls apart. Then that first case you made doesn't hold up and so you can't keep using it.

Amen Amen

What about the argument that spiritual gifts trump role restrictions? That's another one that I hear. We have to understand that any spiritual gift must be exercised within biblical boundaries. If the spiritual gift you are claiming is being used outside of that or in objection to what the boundaries are supposed to be, nope. Nope. That's not how it works. We're given very specific instruction to the order and process of these things. I see this all the time with people that claim, you know, speaking in tongues. And you're like, but if you're not using it within the biblical boundaries, you are discrediting your entire point there of thinking you're doing what you're doing because you've gone out of the bounds of scripture how that's supposed to work. Having a gift doesn't automatically grant office or authority. Nope. Many ways exist for women to use teaching gifts appropriately. God's gifting works within his established order. He's never going to go against his own word in something. So if what you're doing, again, if you have a point, but it doesn't hold up in the total context of scripture, then we don't change what we want it to be. We change what we thought it was and align ourselves to God's word.

Amen Amen

So all of this to say, what is the role of women in the church? I feel like we've made the first part very clear. So what is the role of women? Because people go, "What are women what are women gonna do, right? What's the point of women?" Titus 2:3-5.

Titus 2:3-5 - Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (ESV)

You guys know biblical womanhood is like my favorite topic in the whole wide world. We talk about it a ton here. We talk about it even more over on my other channel, Make Femininity Great Again. If you guys haven't signed up over there, we've got some really cool new stuff going on over there for the women specifically, but we see a very clear calling for what it means to be a woman in the church here today. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanders, addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands so that no one will malign the word of God. You want to know what your role as a Christian woman is? Come and join. It's a free study, Biblical Womanhood. We go through every single one of these verses in absolute detail. Women are called to teach specifically the women and children. That is an immense honor to be given that role and it is one that us ladies need to start taking seriously. They have very specific mentoring and discipleship roles. Ladies, we need to be living those out as Titus 2 women. And that is absolutely my goal with what I do here, what I do on my other few channels. That's why we do what we do. They're to pass on godly wisdom and practical life skills.

Women have a huge calling and it is one that the enemy has twisted for years and years and years now. And it is one that our world is crying out for today. And us ladies, we need to get on it. We need to realize God's design and desire for our lives. And we need to start walking it out because when we don't do those things, we can literally be discrediting God's word by our lives. And I know I don't want to be doing that. Romans 16:1-12, we see women in ministry here.

Romans 16:1-12 - I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. Welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her with anything she may need from you. For she has been a great help to many people, including me. Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who have risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my beloved Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard for you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow countrymen and fellow prisoners. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. Greet Herodion, my fellow countryman. Greet those from the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, women who have worked hard in the Lord. Greet my beloved Persis, who has worked very hard in the Lord. (engbsb2020eb)

The point of that, even though I messed up all of the names, I'm so sorry. I really am not great with names. We see women in ministry over and over and over again. Paul, who is saying, "I do not permit a woman to teach." Right? He's not just anti-woman. Oh, he's a single guy. He hates women. He's just, you know, toxic masculinity. That's what so many people think. No, because he's singing the praises of these women. **Outstanding** among the apostles, **worked very hard** in the Lord, work very hard in the Lord, my co-worker in Christ Jesus. Right? He's praising these women in ministry. Deacon ministry, which is servant leadership, *very* important in the church from both the men and women. Co-working in the gospel, hard work in ministry, hospitality and support, evangelism and missions. Is there a role in a place for women? 1000%. It is just not in the place of authority and headship. What about Acts 16 when we see Lydia's ministry? On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the *women* who had gathered there. One of these listening was a woman from the city of Thotyra named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. Evangelistic heart and gathering others, hospitality ministry, supporting the apostolic work, leading her household to faith. Here we saw Lydia, right? Another woman, dealer in purple cloth. That means she's got a good business going on. Okay, she's got some money. She's got some stuff. The Lord opens her heart. She responds to Paul's message and immediately says, "How can I serve you? How can I use the resources the Lord has entrusted to me, be a faithful servant of the Lord, and now use that to pour into the church?" Do women have amazing, wonderful roles? Yes. But to submit to God's order, they are not roles of authority. And so I do have some resources again looking at practical application from the church perspective, women's perspective, men's perspective across the board. I'm going to put additional resources, sermons, things like that linked into this resource so that way you guys can go and dig in deeper to all of that. It's absolutely all linked down below in the description.

- youtube.com: Rooted in Titus - A Summer of Biblical Womanhood
- hmh.myflodesk.com: Can women be pastors?

We have to understand proper headship and order. When we talk about these things, we have to look not at the lens of our own thoughts and opinions, but God's word, discerning God's word.

And so, friends, I know that these fishbowl topics have been a little bit longer of videos, but I want to make sure that we are being thorough. If we are going to stumble upon various topics and go, man, how do I discern that one? Right? How do I work through that? Well, we're going to go to God's word. Because if we want to truly build up heavenly-minded homes, we have to be people that are living as citizens of heaven in *alignment* to what God calls us to be. And the *only* way to know what that is is to go to his Wordw to work through itw bit by

bit by bit, making sure that if I see this over here and I go, "Okay, that makes sense. Well, let me put it through the rest of scripture and say, okay, when I put it with those weights and balances, does it still check out? Does that still make sense?"

Well, we saw Paul saying the same thing over and over and over and over again. We took from Old Testament, New Testament, put it through the different things and said, "Okay, does this make sense?" Well, yeah. We see creation, we see that the role of judge was not the role of pastor, we see that what women in the New Testament church were doing, right? We kind of put it through all these different lenses and go, "Okay, now we see where that checks out. Can women be pastors?" No. Women cannot be in any role that puts them in an authority place above the church.

...

Do women have very specific roles and callings? Yes, we do. And there is amazing beauty and blessing in all that. Again, check out biblical womanhood. Come and join our study we're doing right now. We're covering lots of this stuff in its practical application each and every day. But we're not in a place of headship. We're not in a place of authority.

We are very much called as Titus 2 women to be pouring into the other women, to be pouring into the children, the future generations, the future of the church to come. How about instead of being so focused on a role that isn't ours, and allowing the enemy to keep that thing in you, well, I want to be a pastor. Well, I want this. I want women to be in charge of everything. How about instead we know where our role is, and we live it out to its fullest, bringing God all glory in the process.

Amen Amen

34.4.4 Tongues etiquette

I then went to another Pentecostal church <2024-11-24 Sun>, which has been my home church for the last 2-3 years (also I should mention the local Reformed church has also been a support to me through 2022 and 2023).

They handled the routine aspect of I Corinthians 14:18-32 today pretty well; allowing people to speak in tongues and seeking interpretation, with a good amount of prophesy mixed in. A healthy balance of tongues and prophesy, songs, and scripture. However, I think that it should be accompanied by teaching people to be discerning with the prophesies/visions/etc. It seemed like it was all for building people up though which is good. But I was very disappointed that testing the spirits was not mentioned, but wildly, it was taught that we should simply speak the dreams and visions so that they come to pass. Very dodgy. We're not supposed to prophesy lying dreams or visions, etc. We've got to teach testing and discernment. We've got to test the spirits. It's very unwise to spread around any old vision or dream we get, and interpret them for ourselves without asking for interpretation, etc. I've spread lying visions to other people before and it has resulted in disastrous consequences. Very concerning stuff.

Tongues and prophecy should be encouraged, but there is etiquette.

I Corinthians 14:21-23, from what I can see *seems* to say that for the unbelievers, prophesy is not a sign, but I Corinthians 14:24-25 says that prophesy will convict them, and calls them to account. But tongues to the unbeliever is a sign and they are perplexed by it but not convicted - rather they are confused.

This clearly says that unbelievers are convicted when they hear prophesy, but that **tongues doesn't help them to hear the Lord**. It also says that speaking words of instruction with our minds (bridled by the Word of God, I might add) is a priority over tongues. The way this word sign (G4592 sémeion) as it is used seems to indicate that it perplexes people because it's an unusual occurrence. So to unbelievers tongues is a sémeion but to believers it is not unusual. And prophecy also perplexes believers and we should seek to weigh in on what is said, and prophecy convicts unbelievers.

I Corinthians 14:18-32 - I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. Nevertheless, in church **I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue**. Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. 21 In the Law it is written, By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord. 22 Thus tongues are a sign (G4592 sémeion) not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. 23 If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all

speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, 25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you. What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. (ESV)

1	5620	3588	1100	1519	4592	1510	3756	3588
2	Hōste	hai	glōssai	eis	sēmeion	eisin	ou	tois
3	,							
4	So then	-	tongues	for	a sign	are	not	to those
5	Conj	Art-NFP	N-NFP	Prep	N-ANS	V-PIA-3P	Adv	Art-DMP
6								
7	4100		235	3588	571	3588	1161	
8	pisteuousin		alla	tois	apistois	hē	de	
9	,							;
10	believing		but	to the	unbelieving	-	but	
11	V-PPA-DMP		Conj	Art-DMP	Adj-DMP		Art-NFS	Conj
12								
13	4394	3756	3588	571	235			
14	prophēteia	ou		tois	apistois	alla		
15	,							
16	prophecy	[is]	not	to the	unbelieving	but		
17	N-NFS	Adv		Art-DMP	Adj-DMP		Conj	
18								
19	3588	4100						
20	tois	pisteuousin						
21	.							
22	to the	believing						
23	Art-DMP	V-PPA-DMP						

4592 sēmeion a sign (typically miraculous), given especially to confirm, corroborate or authenticate. 4592 /sēmeion ("sign") then emphasizes the end-purpose which exalts the one giving it. Accordingly, it is used dozens of times in the NT for what authenticates the Lord and His eternal purpose, especially by doing what mere man can not replicate or take credit for.

youtube.com: An Open Letter to the Pentecostal Churches - Speaking in Tongues but it has been turned into a spiritual competition our validation before God or even a measure of our salvation and **it's none of that** but a supernatural move of the spirit upon a mere weak man to proclaim the words of God.

Speaking in tongues won't save you.

Speaking in tongues won't validate you before God.

Speaking tongues doesn't make you more spiritual than your brother or sister in the pew next to you.

But when it becomes this in your church you quench the Spirit by bringing disorder into the fellowship and bringing a bad witness to the Gospel of Jesus.

I Corinthians 14:23-25 - If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of

his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you. (ESV)

I Corinthians 14:26 - What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. (ESV)

I Corinthians 14:27-28 - If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. (ESV)

34.5 The utterance of tongues is given by the Spirit

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com): What Is Speaking in Tongues?

Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (ESV)

34.6 This type of tongues is for communicating with one another - like a "babel-fish" - when people speak, people hear them speak in their language

It breaks down language barriers.

Acts 2:6-11 - And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. (ESV)

34.7 This type of tongues is for speaking to God

I Corinthians 14:2 - For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

The spirit prays when a person prays in tongues to God.

I Corinthians 14:2 - For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

I Corinthians 14:14-15 - For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

35 The prophets

Psalm 51:9-11 - Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. (ESV)

Zechariah 13:1 - "In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity. (ESV)

Isaiah 53:11 - As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. (ESV)

Jeremiah 31:34 - They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (ESV)

Malachi 4:2 - "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. (ESV)

Daniel 9:24 - "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. (ESV)

Micah 7:18 - Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. (ESV)

2 Chronicles 7:14 - if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (ESV)

35.1 44 Prophecies Jesus Christ Fulfilled

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be born of a woman.	Genesis 3:15 - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. (ESV)	Matthew 1:20 - But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (ESV), Galatians 4:4 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (ESV)
Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.	Micah 5:2 - But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. (ESV)	Matthew 2:1 - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, (ESV), Luke 2:4-6 - And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be born of a virgin.	Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (ESV)	Matthew 1:22-23 - All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us). (ESV), Luke 1:26-31 - In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you! But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would come from the line of Abraham.	Genesis 12:3 - I will bless those who bless you, and him who dis-honors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (ESV), Genesis 22:18 - and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice. (ESV)	Matthew 1:1 - The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (ESV), Romans 9:5 - To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac.	Genesis 17:19 - God said, No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. (ESV), Genesis 21:12 - But God said to Abraham, Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. (ESV)	Luke 3:34 - the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob.	Numbers 24:17 - I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth. (ESV)	Matthew 1:2 - Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.	Genesis 49:10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. (ESV)	Luke 3:33 - the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, (ESV), Hebrews 7:14 - For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be heir to King David's throne.	II Samuel 7:12-13 - When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (ESV), Isaiah 9:7 - Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (ESV)	Luke 1:32-33 - He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. (ESV), Romans 1:3 - concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal.	Psalms 45:6-7 - Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; (ESV), Daniel 2:44 - And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, (ESV)	Luke 1:33 - and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. (ESV), Hebrews 1:8-12 - But of the Son he says, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions. And, You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be called Immanuel.	Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (ESV)	Matthew 1:23 - Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us). (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would spend a season in Egypt.	Hosea 11:1 - When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. (ESV)	Matthew 2:14-15 - And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, Out of Egypt I called my son. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace.	Jeremiah 31:15 - Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. (ESV)	Matthew 2:16-18 - Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah	Isaiah 40:3-5 - A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (ESV)	Luke 3:3-6 - And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be rejected by his own people.	Psalms 69:8 - I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. (ESV), Isaiah 53:3 - He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (ESV)	John 1:11 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (ESV), John 7:5 - For not even his brothers believed in him. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be a prophet.	Deuteronomy 18:15 - The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— (ESV)	Acts 3:20-22 - that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be preceded by Elijah.	Malachi 4:5-6 - Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. (ESV)	Matthew 11:13-14 - For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be declared the Son of God.	Psalms 2:7 - I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, You are my Son; today I have begotten you. (ESV)	Matthew 3:16-17 - And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be called a Nazarene.	Isaiah 11:1 - There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (ESV)	Matthew 2:23 - And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: He shall be called a Nazarene. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would bring light to Galilee.	Isaiah 9:1-2 - But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. (ESV)	Matthew 4:13-16 - And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would speak in parables.	<p>Psalms 78:2-4 - I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. (ESV),</p> <p>Isaiah 6:9-10 - And he said, Go, and say to this people: Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive. Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed. (ESV)</p>	<p>Matthew 13:10-15 - Then the disciples came and said to him, Why do you speak to them in parables? And he answered them, To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. (ESV),</p> <p>Matthew 13:34-35 - All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. (ESV)</p>
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted.	<p>Isaiah 61:1-2 - The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; (ESV)</p>	<p>Luke 4:18-19 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (ESV)</p>

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be a priest after the order of Melchizedek.	Psalms 110:4 - The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)	Hebrews 5:5-6 - So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, You are my Son, today I have begotten you; as he says also in another place, You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be called King.	Psalms 2:6 - As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill. (ESV), Zechariah 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (ESV)	Matthew 27:37 - And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. (ESV), Mark 11:7-11 - And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest! And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be praised by little children.	Psalms 8:2 - Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. (ESV)	Matthew 21:16 - and they said to him, Do you hear what these are saying? And Jesus said to them, Yes; have you never read, Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise? (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be betrayed.	Psalms 41:9 - Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. (ESV), Zechariah 11:12-13 - Then I said to them, If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them. And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the LORD said to me, Throw it to the potter—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter. (ESV)	Luke 22:47-48 - While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss? (ESV), Matthew 26:14-16 - Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, What will you give me if I deliver him over to you? And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah's price money would be used to buy a potter's field.	Zechariah 11:12-13 - Then I said to them, If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them. And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the LORD said to me, Throw it to the potter—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter. (ESV)	Matthew 27:9-10 - Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be falsely accused.	Psalms 35:11 - Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me of things that I do not know. (ESV)	Mark 14:57-58 - And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be silent before his accusers.	Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (ESV)	Mark 15:4-5 - And Pilate again asked him, Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you. But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be spat upon and struck.	Isaiah 50:6 - I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. (ESV)	Matthew 26:67 - Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be hated without cause.	Psalms 35:19 - Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause. (ESV), Psalms 69:4 - More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore? (ESV)	John 15:24-25 - If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: They hated me without a cause. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be crucified with criminals.	Isaiah 53:12 - Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (ESV)	Matthew 27:38 - Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. (ESV), Mark 15:27-28 - And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be given vinegar to drink.	Psalms 69:21 - They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. (ESV)	Matthew 27:34 - they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. (ESV), John 19:28-30 - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), I thirst. A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, It is finished, and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced.	Psalms 22:16 - For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— (ESV), Zechariah 12:10 - And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (ESV)	John 20:25-27 - So the other disciples told him, We have seen the Lord. But he said to them, Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe. Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace be with you. Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed.	Psalms 22:7-8 - All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him! (ESV)	Luke 23:35 - And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One! (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments.	Psalms 22:18 - they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. (ESV)	Matthew 27:35-36 - And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah's bones would not be broken.	Exodus 12:46 - It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. (ESV), Psalms 34:20 - He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. (ESV)	John 19:33-36 - But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: Not one of his bones will be broken. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be forsaken by God.	Psalms 22:1 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? (ESV)	Matthew 27:46 - And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? that is, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would pray for his enemies.	Psalms 109:4 - In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer. (ESV)	Luke 23:34 - And Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they cast lots to divide his garments. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Soldiers would pierce Messiah's side.	Zechariah 12:10 - And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (ESV)	John 19:34 - But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be buried with the rich.	Isaiah 53:9 - And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. (ESV)	Matthew 27:57-60 - When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would resurrect from the dead.	Psalms 16:10 - For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. (ESV), Psalms 49:15 - But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah (ESV)	Matthew 28:2-7 - And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you. (ESV), Acts 2:22-32 - Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence. Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would ascend to heaven.	Psalms 24:7-10 - Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah (ESV)	Mark 16:19 - So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. (ESV), Luke 24:51 - While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. (ESV)
Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be seated at God's right hand.	Psalms 68:18 - You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there. (ESV), Psalms 110:1 - The LORD says to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool. (ESV)	Mark 16:19 - So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. (ESV), Matthew 22:44 - The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet? (ESV)

Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin.	Isaiah 53:5-12 - But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (ESV)	Romans 5:6-8 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)

35.1.1 Psalm 31 and Jesus' last words and Jesus saving me

Psalms 31:5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth. (NASB)

Luke 23:46 - Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, Father, into your hands I commit my

spirit! And having said this he breathed his last. (ESV)

The Holy Spirit is a Person:

John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (ESV)

If the Holy Spirit dwells in you, you are in the Spirit, not in the flesh:

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

Holy Spirit has emotions:

Isaiah 63:10 - But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. (ESV)

The Spirit of God **is** God although He belongs to God.

Holy Spirit speaks:

II Samuel 23:2-4 - The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth. (ESV)

Acts 1:5 - for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. (ESV)

One God, Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN!

Jesus saving me - This is evidence the Holy Spirit is a Person, and evidence to me that the Holy Spirit is God.

- Astral Projection Pt. 2 // Bodacious Blog

I do not actually know what 'astral projection is'. I just googled for whatever I could find to describe it.

This was something for sure, it was a conversation in my sleep, accompanied by dreams.

The first incident was a blue 'light body' which I have felt up until this day, and after that, I have felt like the 'veil' has been very thin and I have had spiritual experiences, and noticing things spiritually.

This was not brought on by meditation or anything, but it happened 'to' me.

I prayed to God consecrating this part of my life to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

And I also prayed that I would not have any out of body experiences like this.

I Timothy 2:6 - who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (ESV)

God never lies:

Titus 1:1-3 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who **never lies**, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

1 John 2:21 - I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. (ESV)

35.2 Faith has a quantity, and faith receives from God / walks into what He has promised

Luke 17:5 - The apostles said to the Lord, **Increase our faith!**

II Corinthians 10:15 - We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your **faith increases**, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged,

Luke 7:8-9 - For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it. When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. (ESV)

Since Faith is proportional to Love for God, which is proportional to obeying God, the following can be understood.

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

A person with true faith in God walks into the truth because true faith has eyes fixed on Jesus and goes to Jesus as it obeys the will of God.

35.2.1 Faith has substance, and a quantity, usually drawn out over time

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (KJV)

Now while we may have faith, hoping, even having a conviction for something which God may not have directly told us about (such as a marriage), ultimately God may approve or deny it:

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (ESV)

We should put our faith in God, and in God's promises:

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, **Have faith in God.**

Matthew 17:20 - He said to them, Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, **if you have faith** like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move, and **nothing will be impossible for you.** (ESV)

Revelation of John 3:8 - I know your **works**. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have **kept my word and have not denied my name**. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie-behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about **patient endurance**, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

I think faith in God is like casting a net to receive something from God, and obedience to God is like catching and riding a wave. because it's by God's power.

If you want to catch something big then you need a lot of faith.

Faith receives salvation, and salvation is the gift which is received through faith. Faith is something which a person must have to receive the free gift. The onus is on us to receive the free gift.

We must draw near to God through Jesus.

Hebrews 7:25 - Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost **those who draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (ESV)

At its most basic form repentance (metanoia) means a person changes their mind to believe and trust and have a heart of obedience - accepting of the will of God. To repent means **stop distrusting and start trusting God**.

We have believe Jesus and to trust Jesus. When Jesus says He is the Son of God, we must believe it because we trust Him. Likewise when He commands us to repent from sinning we should agree with Jesus and be obedient:

John 16:8-9 - And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: **concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;** (ESV)

We need to heed Jesus' warning that we need to change our minds or perish. We have to stop believing falsehood and believe the truth, believe/trust Jesus and Jesus' words:

Luke 13:3 - No, I tell you; but unless you repent (3340. metanoeó), you will all likewise perish. (ESV)

We must repent (change our minds, turning from our wicked ways, and turn to God) and obey God and it typically starts with changing our beliefs and most importantly believing Jesus Christ is who He says He is - Son of God, Messiah - but also believing what He achieved on our behalf with His death, burial and resurrection, and trusting the Word of God and obeying Him.

God has said many things, about his statutes and about how we should listen to Jesus.

I think repentance from sin (**from the heart** turning from sin) out of obedience to God is still approaching Jesus because Jesus fulfilled the law but when presented with the gospel message, we are to accept Jesus and submit to God's righteousness.

So we should humble ourselves and obey God's commandments (not out of pride, but out of authentic faith with God, being accountable to God, in secret).

For example, abstaining from partaking in stealing, or adultery and being faithful to God, even if you lose friends over it. This type of obeying God's commandments is nothing to do with pride or self-exultation or self-righteousness and everything to do with being faithful to God and humbling oneself to God.

Trying to turn from sin in truth and reality.

2 Chronicles 7:14 - if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (ESV)

Matthew 18:3 - and said, Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

It says unless **you** turn - The onus is on you.

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

It says unless **your** righteousness.

Faith (trust) in Jesus probably qualifies a person to 'enter' the Kingdom of Heaven. Faith (trust) in Jesus' blood definitely qualifies a person to 'enter' the Kingdom of Heaven, I think.

Also, following the law by faith in truth I think qualifies a person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Also the Kingdom of Heaven, I think is from Heaven to Earth.

II Corinthians 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

Titus 3:7 - so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Through faith a person is saved (the onus is on us to receive)

Salvation is the gift. Works can be dead works when they're not done in faith. Therefore works don't save.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

A person must be at least willing to do His will - obedience is at the essence of faith:

John 7:17 - If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

35.2.2 The work of faith

- love, faith, service and patient endurance are all considered works

Revelation of John 2:19 - I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

Abraham's obedience is a work of faith.

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Work substantiates faith because it is the act of receiving from God.

A work of faith could indeed be following the law in faith (as opposed to following the law by works).

For example, keeping your integrity, remaining faithful to God and not lying to God.

Patient endurance is a 'work of faith'. It may involve waiting on God to act:

Revelation of John 3:8 - I know your **works**. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have **kept my word and have not denied my name**. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie-behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about **patient endurance**, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

35.2.3 Justified by faith in Jesus which includes walking by faith / works of faith (works not necessarily works of the law)

So if a person believes some part of God's word and in believing they obey then that is 'walking by faith'.

If a person actually believes then they will walk by that belief.

James 2:22-26 - You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works**; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness-and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (ESV)

This is not a work of the law, but it is a work of faith: "*when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way*"

James 2:26 - For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Romans 3:28-31 - For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

The law is not overthrown but it is upheld.

35.2.4 Faith receives - it believes, trusts and obeys

Sermon youtube.com: Faith Trusts the God Who Rewards

Abraham believed and obeyed to receive:

Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was **to receive** as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:13 - These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Because we love and obey God, loving and obeying Jesus, we receive from God when we ask in faith:

I John 3:22 - and whatever we ask we receive from him, **because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.** (ESV)

Disbelief causes disobedience. Disbelief caused the Israelites to not walk in obedience:

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who **heard and yet rebelled?** Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were **disobedient?** So we see that they were unable to enter **because of unbelief.** (ESV)

I Timothy 1:13 - though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because **I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,** (ESV)

Doubt is very contrary to faith, even contrary to obedient faith. Ask in obedient faith without any doubting:

James 1:6-7 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (ESV)

I really think that God is faithful and He's above all things, and we just need to receive the saving gospel message and when trial, tribulation, or the testing of your faith happens, we have to hold fast to the truth and persevere with it.

youtube.com: Petra - Beyond Belief @time: 21 min 35 sec Don't you ever get mad at God? Mad at God? Sure, sometimes, but I still trust Him. How? I don't know. I just do. That's what faith is.

I think James is saying that without **holding fast to the word of God** (the truth) and allowing oneself to be influenced and our lives changed, and **to be saved by it**, we are not transformed, and to be not transformed by the word of God is a big issue because it concerns the salvation of our souls. :

James 1:21-24 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. (ESV)

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Abraham had **trust.** Abraham had **obedience.** I believe that **trust** is very important to have for faith to be counted as righteousness:

Romans 4:20-22 - **No distrust (apistia) made him waver** concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **That is why** his faith was counted to him as righteousness. (ESV)

Peter's demonstration of obedient faith. Doubt inhibits faith:

Matthew 14:28-31 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, Lord, save me. Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? (ESV)

We receive the promised Spirit through faith:

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

Galatians 3:2 - Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? (ESV)

35.2.5 Love gives

I John 3:16 - By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (ESV)

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

Galatians 1:4 - who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

35.2.6 Her faith saved her / is forgiven because she loved much - her love gave substance to her faith

Her love is a work of faith.

Luke 7:47-50 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven-for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. And he said to her, Your sins are forgiven. Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, Who is this, who even forgives sins? And he said to the woman, Your faith has saved you; go in peace. (ESV)

I also currently believe that one's response to forgiveness must be like the woman Jesus mentions in Luke 7:47 - with a **proportional love** for Jesus.

36 Worldly precepts generally contradict the Truth and don't help to stop sin

Colossians 2:20-23 - If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (ESV)

I think that choosing a relationship Biblically is contrary to worldly precepts:

Mark 7:7-9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You **leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men**. And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

Matthew 6:31-33 - Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are **sanctified by faith in me**. (ESV)

I John 5:19 - We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:2 - in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (ESV)

37 Who will enter Heaven? Only the ones who do the will of Father God

Matthew 7:21-23 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (ESV)

OBEDIENCE!

In Spyridon's words, "Paradise will not be filled with sinless people - it will be filled with people who have repented."

The will of God must be discerned through testing with a renewed mind:

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

Jesus has to be your Lord in reality, doing Father God's will in serving Jesus to enter the Kingdom, and that sanctification involves exercising Christ's love (Matthew 25:34):

Ephesians 6:6 - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

We must be doing the will of God to not be under the law:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

Galatians 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (ESV)

Loving one another in the Truth is the will of God:

II Corinthians 8:3-5 - For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (ESV)

Controlling our own body in holiness and honor is the will of God:

I Thessalonians 4:3-5 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; (ESV)

The will of God is that we should not be materialistic or worldly. We must limit our agape love to God and to other people, especially our family in Christ and not agape love anything of the world. I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (agapate) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

If we get conformed to the world then we won't be able to discern the will of God:

Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

After doing the will of God, and not shrinking back, we receive what is promised:

Hebrews 10:36-38 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. (ESV)

The will of God is that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people:

I Peter 2:15 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (ESV)

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Sermon youtube.com: DESPITE REPEATED SINS, DO NOT DESPAIR

We **must** be repent from sinful practices:

I John 3:3-7 - And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

We **must** forgive each other:

Colossians 3:13 - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (ESV)

We **must** love our brother and our sister in Christ. It's imperative that we follow Jesus Christ's teachings and commandments:

I John 4:20-21 - If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

I confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus is the Son of God:

I John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (ESV)

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Knowing God means loving as Jesus loved us:

I John 4:6-7 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

In other words, the real Christians are the ones who know that we must **trust** Jesus and **obey** Jesus' commandments out of thankful love for Jesus as we also **believe** Jesus, and believe God sent Him:

I John 5:1-5 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (ESV)

And we should be building each other up, helping each other attain unity of faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God:

Ephesians 4:12-13 - to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the **unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (ESV)

To get to know Jesus, we **must obey** His commandments:

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

38 Sermon on the mount

38.1 Those who mourn will be comforted

Matthew 5:4 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

38.2 The earth may be inherited

Matthew 5:5 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

38.3 Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

38.4 The merciful shall receive mercy

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Romans 9:15-16 - For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

James 4:6 - But **he gives more grace**. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

38.5 Without holiness, no-one will see the Lord

Matthew 5:8 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

38.6 The peacemakers shall be called sons of God

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Jesus didn't come to bring peace on earth, but division:

Luke 12:51 - Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. (ESV)

The peace Jesus brings is peace in Christ:

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:14-16 - For **he himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (ESV)

Romans 8:6 - To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but **to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.** (ESV)

I Peter 5:14 - Greet one another with the kiss of love. **Peace to all of you who are in Christ.** (ESV)

Philippians 4:9 - What you have learned and received and heard and *seen in me — practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (ESV)

Philemon 1:3 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:12-13 - We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. (ESV)

Colossians 1:2 - To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. (ESV)

Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds **in Christ Jesus.** (ESV)

Colossians 1:21-22 - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, (ESV)

II Timothy 2:22 - Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (NASB)

38.7 Christian persecution is for abiding in Jesus through the cross

Christian persecution happens for obeying Jesus' commandments, through being a servant of Jesus, for being found in Jesus:

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** (ESV)

Christian persecution is not for suffering as an evildoer:

I Peter 4:15 - But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. (ESV)

Christian persecution happens because a person is actually serving Jesus (i.e. following His commandments):

John 15:20 - Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

Worldly people (including worldly Christians) persecute those who are walking in the Spirit:

Galatians 4:29 - But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. (ESV)

Matthew 5:12 - Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (ESV)

The persecution is for the cross of Christ - the offense of the cross:

Galatians 6:12 - It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. (ESV)

38.7.1 There are huge rewards for following Jesus in this life and the one after

In other words, by giving up your present life for being a disciple of Jesus, for obeying Jesus and for the sake of His gospel, we are rewarded in this life and the one after:

Mark 10:29-30 - Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (ESV)

But it also makes me think that I really wish I had tried to follow Jesus years ago, especially before I was born-again:

John 20:29 - Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. (ESV)

And also, I can't really claim "Christian persecution", I don't think. People have generally respected me as a Christian. Also, I live in New Zealand. I've had it quite good, to be honest.

38.7.2 We bless back and endure

I Corinthians 4:12 - and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; (ESV)

II Thessalonians 1:4 - Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. (ESV)

Matthew 13:21 - yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. (ESV)

39 The Kingdom of God

After I got born-again I started getting dreams with themes of the 'Kingdom of God', and also through interactions I began having with people, while I was pursuing following Jesus' commandments, etc. So my 'evidence' is a personal conviction that comes through faith in Jesus which has been working.

That's how I interpret how the following passage says that the Kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed:

Luke 17:20-21 - Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, nor will they say, Look, here it is! or There! for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.

Also, entering the kingdom of God is entering into righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit:

Romans 14:17-20 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. **Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.** Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. (ESV)

Those in the Kingdom of God are serving Christ. As we serve Christ, we are approved by God:

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (ESV)

Inheriting the Kingdom, however, appears to be reigning with Christ:

Daniel 7:18 - But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever. (ESV)

Revelation 2:26-28 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give **authority over the nations**, and **he will rule them with a rod of iron**, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, **even as I myself have received authority from my Father.** And I will give him the morning star. (ESV)

As we walk in the light, as He is in the light, that is in the Truth, walking in, believing, professing and obeying Jesus Christ in Truth, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin:

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

We are the light of the world. Yes, we must do good:

Matthew 5:14-20 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore **whoever relaxes** one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same **will be called least** in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever does them and teaches them will be called great** in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

We must do good, and behave like the children of God, or we will not enter the Kingdom, and that sanctification involves exercising Christ's love (Matthew 25:34):

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 3:7 - Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

We need to perform our salvation in obedience to God:

Philippians 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Work Out What Christ Has Won: The Christian Life as Gift and Duty

James 2:26 - For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (ESV)

39.1 Righteousness for entering the kingdom

We get our life from God as we hold our faith in Jesus Christ; that is believing, trusting, cleaving to, obeying Jesus Christ.

Even from the believer's perspective, we have already won:

1 John 4:4 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (ESV)

Romans 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

We live by our faith in Jesus Christ - our trust in God has the visible evidence of obeying His commandments - and we are not the ones to shrink back and to stop obeying but to remain obedient.

Hebrews 10:37-39 - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

And is in line with what Jesus has said:

Luke 9:62 - Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (ESV)

The one who relies on the law for their life hopes to get their life from continuing to abide by the law, but if they sin it will produce for them death:

Romans 7:10 - The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. (ESV)

Galatians 3:21 - Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. (ESV)

The trouble with trying to get our life and justification through Mosaic law compliance is that is that only Jesus did that perfectly, but that also means that if Jesus is our Master, then Jesus can save us.

We should hold our faith in Jesus, do our best with regards to God's precepts, being accountable to Jesus, and not feel condemned by the law because we are following Jesus:

We have confidence when we keep His commandments, believing in the name of God's Son Jesus Christ and loving one another and our heart doesn't condemn us:

I John 3:21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, **we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.** And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another**, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

And we also should at the same time not encourage the breaking of the Mosaic law.

biblehub.com: Greek Concordance: {zesetai} – 9 Occurrences

This word **zēsetai** I think means to consider it the way we live in order for us to live. So therefore, with regards to the law, a person who lives by the law actually does it. But according to the Apostle Paul, the commandment which promised life **proved to be death** to him, Paul. I believe that's because the law is against sin, and Paul had sin:

Galatians 3:12 - But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them shall live by (**zēsetai en**) them. (ESV)

Romans 10:5 - For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. (ESV)

Leviticus 18:5 - You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD. (ESV)

Ezekiel 20:11 - I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. (ESV)

To try to meet the law for salvation outside of Christ is to seek 'salvation by ones own righteousness which is not possible.

Yet the law of Christ (to love one another as He loved us) is of faith.

However, 'doing' the law is what we want to arrive at, and fulfilling the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk according to the spirit.

Indeed, doing the law is a blessed way to live so long as you are compliant.

Psalms 84:11 - For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (ESV)

We need Jesus as our Master, not the Law as our master. That's what I think it means to be "under grace", not "under Law".

So life comes when a person actually 'does' what is in the law and does not break it, but not if we deny the Son. If we receive Jesus and are following Jesus first and foremost, then no problem.

Leviticus 18:5 - You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD. (ESV)

I John 5:12 - Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (ESV)

We're saved that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us.

But there is no atonement for sin without shedding of blood.

Hebrews 9:22 - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

It certainly seems to me that doing the law is a good thing but we can't rely on it to perpetually sustain our life or to save us.

We have to die to the law and live to Christ and not shrink back from faith in Jesus Christ.

I want to add this section again for clarification:

youtube.com: Is repentance an aspect of faith, or is repentance a good work? {@ligonier} @time: 3 min

PARSONS: It is important that we distinguish between an act and 'works'. The word "work" or "works" in the New Testament is language that the Apostle Paul uses and others use in reference to things that we do in order to *earn* our salvation, things that we do that sort of either initiate with us, begin with us, things that we do to earn our salvation. (That language of work or works is different than something we do.)

We do repent, we do believe, but we have to understand why we believe and why we repent. It's Romans 2:4, I believe, that Paul says, "Don't you know that it's the kindness of God that's meant to lead you to repentance?" So, do we repent? Yes. Is it something we do? Is it an act? Yes. Is it a work, technically? No, it is something that God by His kindness leads us to, just as He grants us the gift of faith according to Ephesians 2:8-10. The entirety of the believer's conversion and coming to the Lord, of course, is all of grace.

LAWSON: And repentance is a sovereign gift that God gives us as well. He gives both saving faith and repentance. That's why God is the author of our salvation. He provides everything. All we provide, as you said, is the sin that we hold in our hands that was laid upon Christ.

The law is not the sum of God. God is not merely the law:

Galatians 2:19 - For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. (ESV)

The Word was God:

John 1:1-4 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (ESV)

John 1:17-18 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (ESV)

So even if a person is observing and teaching others to observe the law, at the end of the day our faith in Jesus Christ is more important:

Romans 3:28-29 - For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, (ESV)

Making Jesus Christ our Master does not mean we say the law is evil, and we still endeavour to follow the law to the measure we observe without it condemning us, bearing one another's burdens, behaving in accordance with sound doctrine while holding our faith in Jesus:

Galatians 3:12 - But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them shall live by them. (ESV)

Where **Galatians 3:12** says that the law is not of faith, it is talking about the Mosaic law, not Christ's law. When we talk about the law of Christ, that law is a law where people who hold faith may be justified while obeying Jesus. If a person holds faith in Jesus while also observing and doing the Mosaic law, that is excellent. If a person holds faith in Jesus Christ without caring much about the Mosaic law, serving Jesus they are acceptable to God. Faith always involves believing God. Faith always involves obedience to Jesus as Jesus works in us and for us. Whenever we believe Jesus we have obeyed Him. And whenever we disobey Jesus we have disobeyed Him.

Faith and obedience are not mutually exclusive but they are mutually inclusive:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheō*) the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

When we obey His commandments we have obeyed Him. It's all obedience, and it's all belief. Even belief is obedience. So obedient faith is still faith and a person can be obedient to God even with regards to Mosaic law while being obedient to Jesus and placing faith in Jesus for our justification. Jesus did the work that we may be justified by faith in Him, and that includes the adherent of the law and the Gentiles. We believe that we are justified by faith in Him thanks to His perfect obedience but we **must** obey Jesus to see life. If a person is totally disobedient to Jesus then they haven't believed Him. It doesn't help in the slightest bit to be disobedient to Jesus. Obedience is an intrinsic part of faith:

Romans 3:26-29 - It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the **law of faith**. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, (ESV)

God's already spoken and given commandments. If we want to obey God then we can listen by reading the Holy Bible to see what God has already spoken:

Luke 16:24-31 - And he called out, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame. But Abraham said, Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us. And he said, Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment. But Abraham said, They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them. And he said, No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent. He said to him, **If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.** (ESV)

We must keep Jesus' commandments. We must keep God's commandments. It's not just the red letters of the Bible which we should observe, believe, trust and obey, but it's the 10 commandments, it's the great commandments. It's God's words which are spirit. It's not just what we get in a dream or a vision that we should observe and obey. Don't believe every spirit!

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Don't believe every spirit! The ones who write-off God's commandments found the Bible are probably listening to a different spirit:

I John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. (ESV)

For our justification, Jesus does/has done the work for those who place their faith in Him. But sanctification involves ongoing work in our lives:

Romans 3:28 - For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (ESV)

Romans 3:24 - and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

We indeed want to aim to love God with our whole heart and our neighbour as ourselves. This is a very important commandment even and especially for Christians. Yes, at the end of the day we rely on Jesus' merit, but this is about loving God. We must have a response of love for God:

Luke 10:27-28 - And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.** (ESV)

But the goodness of God should lead us to repentance:

Romans 2:4 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (ESV)

Romans 7:9-13 - I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. **The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.** For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. (ESV)

40 Entering and inheriting the kingdom

Through the power of God working in us as we hold faith in Jesus we may enter the Kingdom of God:

Mathetes to Diognetus This was not that He at all delighted in our sins, but that He simply endured them; nor that He approved the time of working iniquity which then was, but that He sought to form a mind conscious of righteousness, so that being convinced in that time of our unworthiness of attaining life through our own works, it should now, through the kindness of God, be vouchsafed to us; and having made it manifest that in ourselves we were unable to enter into the kingdom of God, we might through the power of God be made able.

Luke 18:24-30 - Jesus, looking at him with sadness, said, How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. Those who heard it said, Then who can be saved (**4982. sózō**)? But he said, **What is impossible with men is possible with God.** And Peter said, See, we have left our homes and followed you. And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age (165. aión) to come eternal (166. aiónios) life (2222. zóé). (ESV)

4982 sózō (from sōs, "safe, rescued") properly, deliver out of danger and into safety; used principally of God rescuing believers from the penalty and power of sin – and into His provisions (safety).

I Timothy 1:15-16 - The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. (ESV)

At the time we believe, the kingdom of God to us is a promise for which we hope. When do you enter the kingdom of God? That's a good question. I think a reasonable answer is: hold the faith, fight the good fight of faith, and be the 'good soil':

Acts 14:22 - strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Matthew 13:18-21 - Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. (ESV)

We must be the good soil:

Matthew 13:22-23 - As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty. (ESV)

Luke 3:8 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. (ESV)

Luke 19:8-10 - And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (ESV)

Being the good soil is walking in the light, in the truth, the word of truth, the gospel, and that bearing good fruit:

I John 2:24-25 - Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. (ESV)

Romans 2:6-11 - He will render to each one according to his works: **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;** but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for **every human being who does evil,** the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been **set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Can you be overcome by sin again? Yes, you can. But we're supposed to be overcome by practicing righteousness. Jesus sets us free, washes and regenerates us. Once that happens, we must not go back into sin.

Hebrews 6:4-8 - For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. (ESV)

We do need a lot of faith (faith, faithfulness, obedience) in God to **inherit** the Kingdom of God:

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and **heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love (25. agapaó) him?** (ESV)

It's received as an inheritance by being found **in Christ**. We believe we have it while we are found **in Christ**, and continue working it out, and we do need repentance from sin to inherit it. We need to be believing and obedient to Jesus. We need to be faithful to Jesus. We need to follow Jesus:

Galatians 5:22-25 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And **those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (ESV)

God is not dead. The inheritance we receive goes to Christ and those found in Him who are practicing righteousness, presenting themselves to Christ as alive from the dead.

We should disobey sin, and present ourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and our members as **instruments of righteousness to God.** We should be practicing righteousness, practicing love and holiness and truth:

Romans 6:12-13 - Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you **obey** its lusts, and **do not go on** presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (NASB)

Talk youtube.com: How Do We Inherit the Kingdom? Galatians 5:19-21, Part 2

Galatians 3:18 - For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. (ESV)

Galatians 3:29 - And **if you are Christ's**, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

Romans 4:13 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (ESV)

Galatians 4:6-7 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (ESV)

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and **not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring,** but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. (ESV)

The Apostle Paul is with Jesus:

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, *as I warned you before*, that **those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** (ESV)

We must:

- Trust Father God, even for His promise for the one who puts their faith in Jesus. We believe, and trust and obey Jesus:

- love our enemies
- do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return
- Believe Jesus and practice His commandments

Luke 6:35 - But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. (ESV)

We're always seeking God's commendation:

Galatians 1:10 - For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. (ESV)

The righteous **live by** their faith in Jesus - in belief to His promises and in obedience to His commandments all of our life as Christians - hoping for God's commendation.

Matthew 4:4 - But he answered, It is written, Man shall not live by (zēsetai) bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (ESV)

Habakkuk 2:4 - Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:38 - but my righteous one shall live by faith, **and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.** (ESV)

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (ESV)

Galatians 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. (ESV)

We **live to serve Jesus**, believing we are justified by our faith in Him, and not relying on our own righteousness, but we're still living by our faith in God and in Jesus His Son. I think it's dangerous and not *necessarily* correct to say, "I've been justified." We don't justify ourselves but we still have faith to be justified by God as we hold faith in Jesus, and we don't necessarily know **when** that justification has happened. It **may** have happened when we first believed. I would suggest holding to that belief and going on obeying Jesus like someone alive from the dead, serving God: I just want to continue to live faithfully to Jesus for the rest of my life, as I also hold faith that God is my justifier. I want God to justify me / have justified me, as the way in which we are justified is that God does the justifying of the one who has faith in Jesus. So the plan is to really be transformed by the gospel and live in the truth of God's word, and seek God's commendation, and live in the reality that God is for me and not against me as I hold faith in Jesus. I'll give it my best shot:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

It certainly appears that we're not supposed to simply do some righteous thing and then lean on that. Rather we're supposed to 'live by' our faith, – keep going, and not shrink back:

Ezekiel 33:13 - Though **I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die.** (ESV)

Proverbs 4:18 - But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. (ESV)

We should be growing in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

II Peter 3:18 - But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (ESV)

This is in line with what is written in Hebrews:

Hebrews 10:37-39 - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall **live by** faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But **we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed**, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

And is in line with what Jesus has said:

Luke 9:62 - Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (ESV)

There's so much stuff to do in obedience to enter the kingdom... I feel entirely unworthy.

At the same time, it's so simple and there is not a lot to do: just have a trusting heart towards Jesus and receive it:

Luke 18:17 - Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. (ESV)

Firstly, it has been by grace because I asked God to save me, even when I was very much stuck in sin. And I still feel as though I am approaching it and haven't quite entered it (just being honest here), but I'm not turning back from the plow.

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied.

Please God, give me the righteousness required to enter the kingdom, and help me to receive it as I live by faith in Jesus, trusting, believing and obeying Him.

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for **theirs** is the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 5:3-9 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:23-26 - And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (ESV)

It helps to clarify what we mean by inheriting the kingdom of God:

Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Of course we cannot inherit righteousness, peace and joy without putting to death what is earthly in us.

Interesting fact Te reo Māori doesn't have any filthy words. Every language has capacity to express anger, disgust or outrage. Te reo Māori is no different. There are no single words that equate to English equivalents in terms of obscenity or insult. As Alan pointed out, words for body parts, copulation etc are just words — quite neutral.

Watch youtube.com: John Piper - On Cussing

I still think though, that lying, slander and obscene talk can be done in any language using neutral words, so we should not use language in a bad way.

Put to death the earthly in us:

- sexual immorality,
- impurity,
- passion,
- evil desire,
- covetousness, lying,
- slander,
- unrighteous anger,
- obscene talk

We **must** forgive one another:

Colossians 3:5-13 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other**; as the Lord has forgiven you, so **you also must forgive**. (ESV)

40.1 Entering into God's rest

We are required to rest in a 'sense', but Jesus gives us the rest, and we strive to enter that rest. We don't simply take the rest. Jesus gives it to us. We strive in faith and obedience to Jesus, to keep His commandments, and Jesus gives the rest. So, like with the Israelites leaving Egypt, God was leading them to the promised land and the Israelites had to keep faith in God and continue to keep His commandments, and not regress back into idolatry. And this is the way in which we are also supposed to enter into God's rest, by faith obeying Jesus Christ:

I Timothy 4:7-10 - Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness**; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as **it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come**. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For **to this end we toil and strive**, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (ESV)

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

I think entering into God's rest is not an act of disobedience, and it's not an act of distrust. The starting point of entering into God's rest might be thought of as the point of repentance from dead works and turning to faith in God:

Hebrews 6:1-2 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. (ESV)

But it's clear that this repentance brings us into service to God:

Hebrews 9:13-14 - For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

So it's a continuing thing that submits to God's will, by turning away from wanting to do sin, and turning towards wanting to serve God, serving Jesus, out of faith and obedience, and while entering into God's rest by coming to Jesus may be very quick for some people, it may take more time for others, as they shake off idols, as they are purified in love and holiness. And entering the rest, we rest from our works, but it's God who grants that rest to us on an individual basis:

Hebrews 4:9-11 - So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

See how it's God who **makes** us lie down in green pastures. Jesus gives the rest, but he gives it to His followers, those who trust and obey Him:

Psalms 23:1-2 - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. A Psalm of David. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. (ESV)

So long as I'm being harassed by demons opposing sanctification and holiness, I won't rest from striving obediently to the LORD Jesus Christ. When the God of Peace has crushed satan under my feet then I will rest.

The God of Peace will sanctify me completely:

I Thessalonians 5:19-24 - Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (ESV)

The God of Peace will equip me to do His will so my working will be done in His strength:

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

The God of Peace will crush satan under my feet as I obey Him:

Romans 16:17-21 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The **God of peace** will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen. (ESV)

Remember that weeds are removed from God's Kingdom.

Matthew 13:24-30 - He put another parable before them, saying, The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, Master,

did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds? He said to them, An enemy has done this. So the servants said to him, Then do you want us to go and gather them? But he said, No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn. (ESV)

Matthew 13:37-42 - He answered, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

At the close of the age we want to have believed the gospel and we want to be serving Christ and abiding in His love, doing God's will, practicing Christ's commandments:

Matthew 13:49 - So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous (ESV)

I think entering into the Kingdom of heaven as a child of God is entering into God's rest. Entering into God's rest is resting in the spirit of Truth.

Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

40.2 Inheriting the Kingdom of God, even on earth

- Stop sinning - repent from sin
- Make Jesus #1 agape
- Obey Jesus
- Inherit the kingdom of God
 - Righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit
- Produce the right fruits

Matthew 6:30-33 - But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

We must be actively keeping Jesus as our Pearl of Great Price:

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love (25. *agapōsin / agape loving*) him? (ESV)

1 191 80 1473 27 3756 3588
2 Akousate adelphoi mou agapētoi ouch ho
3 , .
4 Listen brothers my beloved Not -
5 V-AMA-2P N-VMP PPro-G1S Adj-VMP Adv Art-NMS
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7 2316 1586 3588 [e 4434 3588 [e 2889
8 Theos exelexato tous ptōchous tō kosmō
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10 God has chosen the poor - in this world
11 N-NMS V-AIM-3S Art-AMP Adj-AMP Art-DMS N-DMS
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13 4145 1722 4102 2532 2818 3588
14 plousious en pistei kai klēronomous tēs
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16 [to be] rich in faith and heirs of the
17 Adj-AMP Prep N-DFS Conj N-AMP Art-GFS
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19 932 3739 1861 3588
20 basileias hēs epēngeilato tois
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22 kingdom that He promised to those
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26 agapōsin auton
27 ?
28 loving Him
29 V-PPA-DMP PPro-AM3S

40.3 Jesus explains how we can go about seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness - this is obedience (the type of faith we must have), not works!

Jesus has told us what we must do, and to obey Him is to follow Him, and be led by Him.

Jesus says the following teachings which he outlines in **Matthew 5-7** are extremely important:

Matthew 7:24-27 - Everyone then who **hears these words of mine and does them** will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (ESV)

The followers of Paul the Apostle live by (walk by) faith; those are the righteous ones. It's a lifestyle:

Galatians 3:11 - Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall **live by** faith. (ESV)

40.3.1 Accept the free gift which is by grace and not of our own merit

In believing in Jesus, we are guaranteed an inheritance in heaven:

Ephesians 1:13,14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

I Peter 1:13 - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

The inheritance is in heaven:

I Peter 1:4 - to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (ESV)

We work for the Lord while believing in Jesus:

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

So once again, we are actually instructed to work for God, but it's not wrong under the right conditions:

Hebrews 6:10 - For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. (ESV)

All the Apostle Paul is saying here, I think is that in "working for God" doesn't imply you have accepted a gift. But, yes, you **can** accept the gift (believe in Jesus) and under that condition work for God:

Romans 4:4 - Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. (ESV)

We still really do need to accept the free gift! Actually, it's imperative, no matter how much we've been attempting to work for God, that we accept the free gift from God:

Romans 4:5-8 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. (ESV)

40.3.2 Love God - treasure God, believe in God, obey God, trust in God. Keep His commandments and hold faith in His promises

James 2:1-9 - My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, You sit here in a good place, while you say to the poor man, You stand over there, or, Sit down at my feet, have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not **God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?** But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (ESV)

40.3.3 Remain faithful to God and keep trusting Him. We need trust in Jesus as we go through the trial

We must remain faithful to God:

James 2:21-23 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God. (ESV)

We must not short-sightedly exchange our invaluable inheritance for immediate relief as Esau did, and do our best to not allow bitterness to damage us going through the fiery trial:

Hebrews 12:15-17 - See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. (ESV)

Trust in God and His promises:

Romans 4:20-22 - **No distrust (apistia) made him waver** concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. **That is why** his faith was counted to him as righteousness. (ESV)

oneplace.com why-the-believer-doubts-part-1-1-1172653.html: Why the Believer Doubts, Part 1 {#1} - Listen to Grace to You with John MacArthur, Jul 1, 2024

Be assured in the heart of the promises of God:

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (ESV)

40.3.4 Love your enemies

We must be like children of God to enter the Kingdom. Children of God are like their Father. So we **must** love our enemies:

Matthew 5:44-48 - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

40.3.5 Practice your righteousness for God's commendation

We must absolutely be faithful to God who sees in secret. Having an awareness and a faith in God is very important for behaving as children of God:

Matthew 6:1-4 - Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)

40.3.6 Will for God's will to be done

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

40.3.7 Do the will of God

We want to be children of God, so we must act like children of God:

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

We don't want to be children of the devil:

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV)

I John 3:8-10 - Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

40.3.8 Forgive those in Christ

Matthew 18:35 - So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. (ESV)

Luke 17:3-4 - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, I repent, you must forgive him. (ESV)

Genesis 50:16-17 - So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, Your father gave this command before he died, Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father. Joseph wept when they spoke to him. (ESV)

Believers and unbelievers are not brothers/family:

Acts 14:2 - But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. (ESV)

I believe we need to be serving Christ to be led by the Spirit, and that means forgiving everyone is important. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us.

To love your neighbour as yourself means forgiving them too, and remember that Jesus forgave us. It also means to not take vengeance (Christ's law includes not rendering evil for evil):

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

Jesus' commandments us to even love one another, anyone around you, with selfless love:

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

If we are servants of Christ then we are acceptable to God. Serving Christ, loving our neighbour as ourselves, bearing one another's burdens, trying to do no harm to our neighbour, we should have a good conscience before God and men:

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

If you have trusting faith in God then you will walk according to the will of God (walk the way Jesus Christ calls us to walk in obedience to Jesus, as a response of love to God in the knowledge He loved us first). **Led by the Spirit = following Jesus.**

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, **he must follow me;** and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

That's not *working* but it is *walking* and it is being obedient to Jesus. The Israelites through the Red Sea were being led by the Spirit - they were not working for God as they walked in obedience:

Galatians 5:16-18 - But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But **if** you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Matthew 6:8-15 - Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and **forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For **if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.** (ESV)

Matthew 6:12 - and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (ESV)

Put to death the earthly in us:

- sexual immorality,
- impurity,
- passion,
- evil desire,
- covetousness, lying,
- slander,
- unrighteous anger,
- obscene talk

We **must** forgive one another:

Colossians 3:5-13 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other;** as the Lord has forgiven you, so **you also must forgive.** (ESV)

40.3.9 Produce the right fruits

We must produce the right fruits:

Matthew 21:43 - Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:5-7 - The **aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.** Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. (ESV)

We must produce the right fruits, not the wrong fruits. And we certainly shouldn't shut out people who are producing the right fruits:

Matthew 23:13 - But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. (ESV)

Matthew 19:14 - but Jesus said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

I Timothy 6:1-5 - Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. **If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.** He has *an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.* (ESV)

If anyone claims to be a believer but is an unrepentant sinner then don't allow that person in:

I Corinthians 5:11-13 - But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is **guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler — not even to eat with such a one.** For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?** God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

Read <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/avoid-the-unrepentant-but-what-if-theyre-family>

If anyone claims to be a believer but does not agape (treasure) his brother, they are still in darkness:

I John 2:9 - Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. (ESV)

We are all **stewards** of God's varied grace so there is obligation to serve one another:

I Peter 4:10 - As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good **stewards** of God's varied grace: (ESV)

Churches should be teaching Jesus' teachings, and we should be teaching each other to abide in Christ's teachings without hypocrisy (i.e. whilst abiding ourselves in Christ's teachings):

Luke 12:42-49 - And the Lord said, Who then is the **faithful and wise manager**, whom his master will set over his household, **to give them their portion of food at the proper time?** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, My master is delayed in coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:11 - Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. (ESV)

I Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (ESV)

40.4 Entering the kingdom

This really seems to be talking about walking out the faith, putting on Christ, etc.:

II Peter 1:5-11 - For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (ESV)

We must receive the kingdom of God like a child - like Father God's child. Children easily **trust, believe, follow and obey their parents** - they also **act like their parents.** We must **receive the kingdom of God like a child of God:**

Luke 18:16-22 - But Jesus called them to him, saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not **receive the kingdom of God like a child** shall not enter it. And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

Like a child of God:

- behave like a child of God
 - like a child takes after their parents
- trust like a child trusts their parents

- believe like a child believes their parents
- obey like a child obeys their parents
- follow like a child follows their parents

Colossians 3:20-21 - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:1-4 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (ESV)

The kingdom of God is all about serving Christ, and having righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit:

Romans 14:17-22 - For **the kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**. Whoever thus **serves Christ** is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for **peace and for mutual upbuilding**. *Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.* Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. **It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.** The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. **Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.** (ESV)

40.4.1 Put on the breastplate of righteousness (faith and love))

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.** **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:14 - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, (ESV)

James 1:19-23 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce **the righteousness that God requires.** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)

40.4.2 After entering the Kingdom, we must still abstain from sin and keep Christ's law/commandments

Children of the Kingdom of God purify themselves, but children of the devil do not. The children of the devil are the weeds (they affirm (**Psalms 52:1-5**) rather than forsake sin). We must be cleaned by obedience to the Truth for a sincere love of our family in Christ that we may see Him. At the end of sanctification is having eternal life and not being able to lose that eternal life and the salvation of our souls. The "one born of God" (the new creation self) keeps himself (is mindful for obedience to God) and the devil does not harm him (**I John 5:18, Proverbs 16:7, Psalms 115:11**):

I John 3:1-11 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

The weeds may grow among the good seed in God's kingdom but they are not children of the kingdom:

Matthew 13:37-42 - He answered, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. **The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace.** In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

Matthew 13:43 - Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (ESV)

40.4.3 Behave like a child of God, as a child takes after their parents

We must do good, and behave like the children of God, or we will not enter the Kingdom, and that sanctification involves exercising Christ's love (Matthew 25:34):

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

Luke 6:35 - But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. (ESV)

Quote of John Piper Your life becomes a foretaste for others of your cherished future. But if your future that you cherish is grace coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ and that is your treasure, and that is your hope and that is your faith and that is your vision and what you hold onto and embrace, **you cannot return evil for evil.** You know *why* you cannot return evil for evil? (If that's where your heart is.) Because **the cherished grace that's coming is that He's not going to return evil for evil to you.** Then we cannot turn around and have a lifestyle of returning evil for evil or insulting for insulting, and therefore the point of saying it's a condition for that is simply this, "**You must be born again.**" Therefore, **it's a condition**, not in the sense of earning anything but **in the sense of bearing witness that you've fallen in love and live out of that confidence.**

I believe this type of obedience, obedience to Jesus may come before or after being born of the Spirit, and obedience to Jesus is a part of faith in Jesus. If I obey Jesus when I'm feeling depressed and having a bad day myself, that's fine. It most certainly still counts as love. In fact, it's more blessed to give than to receive. The obedience is still done out of love for Jesus and out of faith in Jesus.

40.4.4 Trust Jesus like a child trusts their parents

We abide in Jesus when He washes us. When the Holy Spirit washes us, the Holy Spirit helps us to put sin to death:

John 13:8 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Peter believed/received/obeyed/trusted like a child of God (he cooperated) to let Jesus wash him but it was Jesus doing the work:

John 13:9 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! (ESV)

40.4.5 Follow Jesus as a child follows their parents

John 10:26-29 - but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (ESV)

40.4.6 We must love Jesus and the other children of God

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

I John 5:1-2 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

40.4.7 Have active faith in Jesus and *trust* in Him. This is the good news, the gospel:

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

Have faith in God and have faith in Jesus:

John 14:1 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe (G4100 pisteuo) in God, believe (G4100 pisteuo) also in Me.

Pisteuo means to trust. Trust in God, trust also in God's Son Jesus:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts** (G4100 pisteuo) him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuōn - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. apeitheó) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (pisteuōn): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 pisteuō), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuōn - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. katechó) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.** As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?** So we see that **they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus.** We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

John 5:34 - Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. (ESV)

John 6:47 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. (ESV)

John 11:26 - and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? (ESV)

40.4.8 We must be born-again

John 3:3-5 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (ESV)

Matthew 18:5 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, (ESV)

It is the sovereign work of God to make someone born-again of the Spirit, but the Apostles say **the Holy Spirit** is given to those who believe in / obey him:

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive **the promised Spirit through faith**. (ESV)

John 1:11-13 - He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe (G4100 pisteuo) in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

40.4.9 We must be born of God

I think being born of God might in some way mean being born of *the will of God*:

John 1:13 - who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

By a sovereign act of God in giving us His Word we are born-again of His will by His word - through faith in His Word:

James 1:16-18 - Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. **Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (KJV)

40.4.10 We must be able to discern the will of God, and want to do it

There's a lot in the Bible to explain what is the revealed will of God. Continuing on in discerning the will of God we should have a renewed mind. We should obey Jesus:

youtube.com: How Do We Know the Will of God? | John Piper Clip {@desiringGod} The Bible does not tell you which person to marry, or whether to marry. The Bible does not tell you which car to drive, or buy, rent. The Bible doesn't tell you whether to buy a home or not which home to buy. [The] Bible doesn't tell you which brand of orange juice to drink. There are 10,000 decisions you must make that are not explicitly addressed in the Bible so what do you do? If you want to obey the will of command my answer is you must have a renewed mind. That's what the text says.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

We end up thinking in a similar fashion to Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to **do** the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (ESV)

40.4.11 We must do the will of God

Jesus has to be your Lord in reality, i.e. doing Father God's will:

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

We must be **doing** the will of God to not be under the law:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

40.4.12 We must accept it as a child, and as a child of Father God

Matthew 18:3 - and said, Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

40.4.13 We must serve people. We must give up our wealth for others' sake

Matthew 19:23-24 - And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Mark 10:23-25 - And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Luke 18:24-25 - Jesus, looking at him with sadness, said, How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

40.4.14 Even doing good and put to silence the ignorance of foolish people is the will of God

Even doing good is important for entering the kingdom of heaven:

I Peter 2:15 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

We seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting God trusting Jesus, keeping Jesus' commandments, not trusting in the worldly stuff:

Matthew 6:24-34 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

40.4.15 We must abide in Jesus through faith, then we have Jesus' righteousness, but faith in Jesus progresses to obedience to Jesus, which is doing the will of God

We may abide in Jesus, but we should still go about doing the will of God to enter the kingdom of heaven:

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

We abide in Jesus when He washes us. When the Holy Spirit washes us, the Holy Spirit helps us to put sin to death:

John 13:8 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Peter believed/received/obeyed/trusted like a child of God (he cooperated) to let Jesus wash him but it was Jesus doing the work:

John 13:9 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! (ESV)

Jesus' servants (people who believe and obey Him) are found **in him**. We know Christ by living in the pattern in which he lived. Jesus' servants are those who have accepted Jesus to wash them, and they ought to then wash one another:

Psalm 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his **servants**; none of those who take refuge **in him** will be condemned. (ESV)

40.4.16 We must turn from sin

Mark 9:47 - And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell,

After being born-again we must reckon dead the 'old man', and put sin to death.

Those in Christ Jesus have been set free from the law of sin and death, and we should not succumb to sin.

Romans 7:20 - Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (ESV)

Romans 7:24-25 - Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

Romans 8:5 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (ESV)

Romans 8:10 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Free from Judgment, Fighting Sin, Full Assurance |

40.4.17 We must endure to enter the kingdom of God

Acts 14:22 - strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

40.5 Salvation absolutely involves repenting from sin

Zacchaeus was repentant, and was saved through Jesus as he had the faith of Abraham, but towards Jesus:

Luke 19:1-10 - He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today. So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (ESV)

40.6 Inheriting the kingdom (being an Heir of the Kingdom)

We must be gifted redemption. God washes/purifies us just as He justifies us, so that in continuing to trust in Him, we may become heirs of the Kingdom. We're graciously cleaned up by God in order to serve God and become fellow heirs as we suffer with Christ for righteousness-sake as we are obedient to God:

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that **being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.** (ESV)

Yes we must serve God, being a slave to righteousness, even practicing righteousness (God cleans us so we can do this), and we love (agape treasure Him and His words):

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and **heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love (25. agapaó) him?** (ESV)

Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

40.6.1 We must be born-again

I Corinthians 15:50 - I tell you this, brothers: **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (ESV)

40.6.2 Made alive in Christ

Ephesians 2:1 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (ESV)

Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— (ESV)

40.6.3 We must repent and be sanctified - it's for our own good

youtube.com: Practicing Sin Destroys the Soul: Galatians 5:19-21, Part 1

This is not an exhaustive list:

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

But only the ones who are truly remorseful:

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

The sexually immoral, impure, the covetous, the idolaters, have **no inheritance** in the kingdom of God - so much for 'imputed' righteousness alone. We need to be transformed by the gospel:

Ephesians 5:5 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has **no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.** (ESV)

An adequate reading of the following which makes sense to me is that being found in Jesus, we have a righteousness which does indeed belong to us but it belongs also to Jesus who we are found in. The righteousness which we have in Jesus doesn't come from the law but through faith in Jesus, depending on faith in Jesus. In other words, the righteousness is not our own apart from Jesus, but the righteousness still belongs to us if it is the righteousness of faith in Jesus, us being found in Jesus. Our righteousness being found in Jesus doesn't make it self-righteousness to obey God's commandments:

Philippians 3:9 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— (ESV)

Flock = Jesus' followers. God **wants** to give Jesus' followers the kingdom, but we have to stop serving sin and repent to serve God through Jesus:

Luke 12:30-32 - For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for **it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.** (ESV)

We want to walk in a worthy manner, **bearing fruit in good work:**

Colossians 1:10-14 - so as to **walk in a manner worthy** of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

40.6.4 We must be a good and faithful servant

Matthew 25:31-34 - When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

40.6.5 We must be servants

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (ESV)

Matthew 25:35-46 - For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying, Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

40.6.6 We must keep conquer (in our own lives) evil and sin, keeping Jesus' works, keeping our faith in Jesus

Our work for God is not in vain, and it's all grace:

I Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

All of this is grace. Our hope is on the grace that is brought to us as we hold our faith in Jesus - it's all grace. Obedience to Jesus doesn't make it no longer grace:

I Peter 1:13 - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Realise that Jesus has overcome the world, and while we are **in Him**, we ourselves become overcomers:

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)

Every person who has been born of God overcomes the world:

I John 5:4-5 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (ESV)

We must overcome evil with good:

Romans 12:21 - Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

II Peter 2:20 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. (ESV)

We must overcome the evil one:

I John 2:13-14 - I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. (ESV)

Revelation of John 3:12 - The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (ESV)

The gospel of the Kingdom of God (God's reign on earth):

Revelation of John 11:15 - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.** (ESV)

If we keep Jesus' works then we receive authority over the nations (obvious bonuses for obedience to Jesus' commandments, and it's not easy):

Revelation of John 2:26 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, (ESV)

II Timothy 2:12-13 - if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Revelation 2:17 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it. (ESV)

Condition: If we overcome persecution and trials **Promise:** Jesus will allow us to eat of the hidden Manna and will give a us white stone with a new name written on it that only the one that receives it will know.

Indeed the "paradise of God" (Garden of Eden, I assume) is still around:

Revelation 2:7 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (ESV)

Condition: If we persevere over evil and endure for Christ's namesake and overcome (persecution and trials) **Promise:** We will be allowed to eat from the Tree of Life which is in the paradise of God

We must set aside sin, and endure our cross, supported by Jesus' spirit:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. (ESV)

The ones who will receive the Kingdom are the ones who are producing the right fruit, keeping Jesus' works:

Matthew 21:43-44 - Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:26-28 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. (ESV)

Revelation of John 3:21 - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (ESV)

Matthew 24:13-14 - But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (ESV)

40.7 Entering vs inheriting verses

Consider that inheriting the kingdom is something with goes to people who love God:

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV)

We should be obedient slaves of Righteousness (slaves of Jesus). If you're not enslaved to Christ you're enslaved to something else - either yourself or to sin or to the world or to satan. I realise that word 'enslaved' carries connotations of slavery but it's slavery to Jesus, and freedom from slavery to sin, slavery from walking in

disobedience to God, to instead serve God through Jesus. No servant is greater than their master, but at least the servant of Jesus has Jesus as their master.

I have thoughts here on the difference between entering the kingdom and inheriting the kingdom. I left a comment on this video.

I believe that being found **in Christ** is enough to enter into the kingdom of heaven. That's called imputed righteousness. Imputed righteousness will get you **into** the sanctification ambulance. But the slave to sin doesn't abide **forever**.

So we should be trusting Jesus Christ, trusting in Him and His words, and loving one another in the way that we're commanded to:

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Exercising love is sanctifying:

I Peter 4:7-8 - The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

We must be sanctified:

I Corinthians 6:1-20 - When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers! Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Yes, I choose to obey the truth, to be sanctified by the truth:

I Corinthians 5:1-13 - Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

I don't want to spurn the grace of God. The passover Lamb has been sacrificed and I want to be sanctified (cleaned up, I Thessalonians 4:3-8) into holiness and inherit the kingdom, inherit eternal life.

Also, we're supposed to "judge" other believers inside the church. They are inside the church but people who are unrepentant sinners do receive discipline.

I Corinthians 5:1-13 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

Eternal life requires sanctification:

John 8:35 - The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (ESV)

Sanctification which is salvation which leads to **eternal** life.

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Sanctification is the salvation: We are sanctified while having faith in the Truth. This sanctification is the salvation. We are saved through sanctification and faith. This sanctification is sanctification of the heart and soul:

I Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

Justified by faith in Jesus. Saved through sanctification while holding faith in Jesus. This justification by faith is required for us to continue being sanctified:

James 1:14-15 - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

We need faith in Jesus Christ. We need faith in the truth. We need imputed righteousness.

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

But we also need sanctification for eternal life.

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Romans 6:21 - But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. (ESV)

Galatians 5:18-21 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Inheriting the kingdom of heaven / kingdom of God is like being the master of a house. Other people who have not inherited the kingdom, might enter the house. But can't stay forever unless they have been sanctified.

Matthew 13:31-32 - He put another parable before them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. (ESV)

Matthew 13:52 - And he said to them, Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old. (ESV)

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Notice Jesus mentioning "eternal dwellings":

Luke 16:8-9 - And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. (ESV)

If Jehovah builds the house then those who build it **do not labour in vain**:

Philippians 2:13 - for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

Psalms 127:1 - Unless the LORD (3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (ESV)

40.7.1 Being found in Christ Jesus, being servants of Jesus, we have eternal life in Him

Romans 6:29-23 - But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit. What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, You shall not covet. But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. (ESV)

40.7.2 Entering the Kingdom

Serve God, serving Jesus:

Matthew 6:24-33 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the **kingdom of God** and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

Make the correct confession. We must be **for** Christ Jesus, not against Him:

Matthew 12:24-37 - But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons. Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the **kingdom of God** has come upon you. Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this

age or in the age to come. Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (ESV)

By the grace of God, we are saved from idolatry, to serve God through serving Jesus:

Matthew 19:22-26 - When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the **kingdom of God**. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (ESV)

We have to do the will of the Father to enter - receive Jesus, have faith in Him. Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith, of our following Jesus. We have to be the son who practices Jesus' commandments, who actually does it ("Son, go and work in the vineyard today. And he answered, I will not, but afterward he changed his mind and went.") and Jesus commanded faith. We are saved through our obedience to Christ:

Matthew 21:27-32 - So they answered Jesus, We do not know. And he said to them, Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, **Son, go and work in the vineyard today. And he answered, I will not, but afterward he changed his mind and went.** And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, I go, sir, but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said, The first. Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the **kingdom of God** before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him. (ESV)

John 6:29 - Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

We have to do the will of the Father to enter - receive Jesus, have faith in Him. Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith, of our following Jesus. We have to be the son who practices Jesus' commandments, who actually does it ("Son, go and work in the vineyard today. And he answered, I will not, but afterward he changed his mind and went.") and Jesus commanded faith. We are saved through our obedience to Christ:

Matthew 21:33-44 - Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, They will respect my son. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves,

This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance. And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants? They said to him, He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him. (ESV)

Repent and believe in God's Good News. Follow Jesus:

Mark 1:14-17 - Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the **kingdom of God** is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men. (ESV)

It's a serious act of treason when you love other things more than God; When you love something else more than God, and do not obey God, and do not believe God and do not turn from doing the will of satan to doing the will of God:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

We are instructed to do good, and to stop doing evil. We're supposed to repent from doing evil:

Romans 2:5-11 - But because of your hard and **impenitent** heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being **who does evil**, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone **who does good**, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

Receive the Good News, receive the Kingdom of God, receive Jesus, believe. Be receptive to God's Word and allow the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus to produce fruit from you:

Mark 4:8-20 - And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold. And he said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear. And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, To you has been given the secret of the **kingdom of God**, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven. And he said to them, Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold. (ESV)

God is operating in His vineyard. We can notice Him operating. Serving Jesus, interacting with other people, we can often see God bringing people to faith in Him:

Mark 4:26-29 - And he said, The **kingdom of God** is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; **he knows not how**. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come. (ESV)

Mark 4:30-34 - And he said, With what can we compare the **kingdom of God**, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade. With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything. (ESV)

Luke 10:2-16 - And he said to them, **The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.** Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, Peace be to this house! And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, **The kingdom of God** has come near to you. But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the **kingdom of God** has come near. I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me. (ESV)

Entering into the Kingdom of God, or entering continuous tribulation seems to be the two options, and it seems as though to enter into the Kingdom of God we must be at peace with each other, resist sinning and be gently correcting one another:

Romans 14:17 - For the **kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Mark 9:47-50 - And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the **kingdom of God** with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:22-26 - So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (ESV)

We have to receive the **kingdom of God** (follow Jesus, and Jesus will miraculously take us to God. Like Job, need to stop coveting idols such as money and put our trust in trust God, in Jesus, receive Jesus):

- **Mark 10:14-31** - But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the **kingdom of God**. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive

the **kingdom of God** like a child shall not enter it. And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. And he said to him, Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth. And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, **follow me**. Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the **kingdom of God!** And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how difficult it is to enter the **kingdom of God!** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the **kingdom of God.** And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, Then who can be saved? Jesus looked at them and said, With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God. Peter began to say to him, See, we have left everything and followed you. Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first. (ESV)

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

This person seemed to be not far because I think he was agreeing with the Truth, even agreeing with Jesus. But we must not merely agree with Jesus but also **do** the Word:

Mark 12:28-34 - And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, Which commandment is the most important of all? Jesus answered, The most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said to him, You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, You are not far from the kingdom of God. And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions. (ESV)

The Kingdom of God is the true reality. So to enter it we need to believe the Truth, and follow Jesus to be brought into the Truth:

Luke 4:18 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (ESV)

Luke 4:43 - but he said to them, I must preach the good news of the **kingdom of God** to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose. (ESV)

John 12:27 - Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

Acts 26:15-18 - And I said, Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God has mercy on people who are poor by worldly standards to reveal to them the Kingdom of God, and God works amongst the materially poor:

Luke 6:20 - And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the **kingdom of God**. (ESV)

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV)

Jesus has to know us for us for us to enter the **kingdom of God**:

- **Luke 13:18-30** - He said therefore, What is the **kingdom of God** like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches. And again he said, To what shall I compare the **kingdom of God**? It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened. He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, Lord, will those who are saved be few? And he said to them, Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, open to us, then he will answer you, I do not know where you come from. Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets. But he will say, I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil! In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the **kingdom of God** but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the **kingdom of God**. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last. (ESV)

John 10:9-16 - I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. **I know my own and my own know me**, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

Matthew 7:21-22 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? (ESV)

Matthew 25:33-46 - And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed

me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying, Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (ESV)

- Lk 14:15: When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the **kingdom of God**!
- Lk 16:16: The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the **kingdom of God** is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.
- Lk 17:20: Being asked by the Pharisees when the **kingdom of God** would come, he answered them, The **kingdom of God** is not coming with signs to be observed,
- Lk 17:21: nor will they say, Look, here it is! or There! for behold, the **kingdom of God** is in the midst of you.

Luke 18:16-30 - But Jesus called them to him, saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the **kingdom of God**. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. Jesus, looking at him with sadness, said, How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the **kingdom of God**! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the **kingdom of God**. Those who heard it said, Then who can be saved? But he said, What is impossible with men is possible with God. And Peter said, See, we have left our homes and followed you. And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the **kingdom of God**, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life. (ESV)

- Lk 19:11: As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the **kingdom of God** was to appear immediately.
- Lk 21:31: So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the **kingdom of God** is near.
- Lk 22:16: For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the **kingdom of God**.
- Lk 22:18: For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the **kingdom of God** comes.
- Lk 23:51: who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the **kingdom of God**.
- Jn 3:3: Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the **kingdom of God**.

- Jn 3:5: Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the **kingdom of God**.
- Ac 1:3: To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the **kingdom of God**.
- Ac 8:12: But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the **kingdom of God** and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

It's typical to be taught the teaching (go through the gospels), and become a disciple of Jesus:

Acts 14:21-22 - When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the **kingdom of God**. (ESV)

Acts 19:4-11 - And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the **kingdom of God**. But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the **Way** before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, (ESV)

Acts 28:23-31 - When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the **kingdom of God** and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: Go to this people, and say, You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen. He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, **proclaiming the *kingdom of God** and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance*. (ESV)

G1303. *diatithémi* diatithémi: To arrange, to make a covenant, to dispose

This is being allowed to be a part of Jesus' kingdom, and it is a Kingdom of servants, walking in the Spirit, all in service to Jesus, serving one another, and Jesus is our leader. People in Jesus' Kingdom may falter, but Jesus prays that the faith of His servants doesn't ultimately fail, that when we regress to being in the flesh, we still turn back to walking in the Spirit. Like, Simon Peter, we should strengthen our brothers when we turn back to have our mind set on the Spirit rather than the flesh.

Luke 22:25-32 - And he said to them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign (G1303 diatithémi) to you, as my Father assigned (G1303 diatithémi) to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that **your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.** (ESV)

See how it appears as though sanctification is necessary for inheriting the **kingdom of God**. I think the way to think about inheritance doesn't need to be some far-off thing, but rather we should simply have this mind set on the Spirit and not on the flesh:

I Corinthians 6:9-20 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the **kingdom of God**?

Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the **kingdom of God**. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Luke 12:32 - Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:34-50 - Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. But someone will ask, How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come? You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the **kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (ESV)

Galatians 5:19-26 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the **kingdom of God**. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (ESV)

Increase in faith and increase in love through believing Jesus' words. If you start seeing evidence of the righteous judgement of God in the experience of affliction while keeping steadfast in the faith, then be encouraged. By works of faith, we may be considered worthy of God's calling:

II Thessalonians 1:1-12 - Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because **your faith is growing abundantly**, and **the love of every one of you for one another is increasing**. Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for **your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring**. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the **kingdom of God**, for which **you are also suffering** — since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end **we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

To be useful for work of the Kingdom of God, we must follow Jesus:

Luke 9:23-25 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? (ESV)

Luke 9:26-27 - For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the **kingdom of God**. (ESV)

Luke 9:59-62 - To another he said, Follow me. But he said, Lord, let me first go and bury my father. And Jesus said to him, Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the **kingdom of God**. Yet another said, I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home. Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit (G2111 euthetos) for the **kingdom of God**. (ESV)

G2111. euthetos Meaning: suitable, fit, useful.

41 Who will enter the holy city of New Jerusalem which is in Heaven? Not sin servers. Only servants. Only those who follow Jesus' commandments

I think it's really the hope of inheritance for people who have strived to enter the kingdom while on earth.

Luke 13:22-27 - He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, Lord, will those who are saved be few? And he said to them, Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, open to us, then he will answer you, I do not know where you come from. Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets. But he will say, I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!

Hebrews 12:22 - But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

Revelation of John 21:10 - And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,

41.1 We must always be looking to Jesus, even follow Jesus that we be of the day and not the night

John 11:9-10 - Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him. (ESV)

John 9:5 - As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (ESV)

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

Matthew 5:14 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (ESV)

41.2 There is no night

I Thessalonians 5:4-22 - But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. **We are not of the night or of the darkness.** So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:1-27 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, Behold, I am making all things new. Also he said, Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true. And he said to me, It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare; its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and

width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass. And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be **no night** there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But **nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.** (ESV)

41.3 Those who have stopped sinning (potentially through the power of *the Holy Spirit*) and who believe in Jesus Christ

Acts 5:31 - God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18 - When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.

41.4 Sinners will not inherit the kingdom of God

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

41.5 We've died to sin, now we live to Christ, and do not allow sin back in

We are slaves of righteousness now - we must obey God, keeping sin dead:

Romans 6:1 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For **if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, **but the life he lives he lives to God.** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Do not make sin come alive again, but be a slave of righteousness - **be obedient** as it leads to righteousness:

Romans 6:12-16 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?**

We must be slaves to righteousness, which leads to our sanctification:

Romans 6:17-21 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as **slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification**. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death.

At the end of sanctification is eternal life:

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been **set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life**. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Can you be overcome by sin again? Yes, you can. But we're supposed to be overcome by practicing righteousness. Jesus sets us free, washes and regenerates us. Once that happens, we must not go back into sin.

Hebrews 6:4-8 - For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. (ESV)

41.6 Compliance with the Torah (Law) is not self-righteousness, but obedience

Revelation 22:15 - Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:5 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (ESV)

1 John 3:4-9 - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (ESV)

Derek Prince may have an even better understanding of the Torah's (the Law's) role in Christianity:

- youtube.com: The Way Into the Holiest - Four Great Blessings of the New Covenant Part 7 A {7:1}

We must obey Jesus:

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**. (ESV)

41.6.1 The law is good, if used properly - and its usage is part of the gospel

The law certainly still exists:

1 Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Read The Epistle of Ignatius to the Magnesians

But Christians are not under the law while we are led by the Spirit:

Ignatius to the Magnesians 8 - Be not deceived with *strange doctrines*, nor with *old fables*, which are unprofitable. For if we still live according to the Jewish law, we acknowledge that we have not received grace. For the divinest prophets lived according to Christ Jesus. On this account also they were persecuted, being inspired by His grace to fully convince the unbelieving that there is **one God, who has manifested Himself by Jesus Christ His Son, who is His eternal Word**, not proceeding forth from silence, and who in all things pleased Him that sent Him.

If we are led by the spirit (if we're serving Jesus Christ, seeking justification through faith in Jesus Christ) then we are not under the Mosaic law, but we are trying to bear one another's burdens without partiality and seeking to not harming our neighbour, and we are seeking to not allowing sin to reign in our mortal bodies. Inheriting the Kingdom of God is for those who abide by God's law, and conform to Christ's image, and do not allow sin to reign in their mortal body:

Galatians 5:18-21 - But **if** you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God**. (ESV)

We must abide in Jesus. God doesn't give glory to anyone else. God is love and God is Jehovah and God is Jesus:

Isaiah 42:8 - I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. (ESV)

God is love, but God has loved us by sending us Jesus youtube.com: God Is No Longer Against Us

42 The LORD our God and my Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 2:34 - For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

43 Jesus, the Bread of Life

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. (ESV)

43.1 Have faith in Jesus. Continue in faith in Jesus and it will well up to eternal life

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 6:38-40 - For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

43.1.1 Drink

John 7:37-38 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

John 4:14 - but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Whoever believes in Jesus.

43.1.2 Food

John 4:32-34 - But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. So the disciples said to one another, Has anyone brought him something to eat? Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (ESV)

John 6:27 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that **you believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him whom he has sent.** (ESV)

Whoever believes in him who God has sent.

43.1.3 Look upon, consider and have faith (which is a relationship with God)

John 6:40 - For this (G3778 houtos) is the will (G2307 thelema) of My Father (G3962 pater), that everyone (G3956 pas) who beholds (G2334 theoreo) the Son (G5207 huios) and believes (G4100 pisteuo) in Him will have (G2192 echo) eternal (G166 aionios) life (G2222 zoe), and I Myself (G1473 ego) will raise (G450 anistemi) him up on the last (G2078 eschatos) day (G2250 hemera)."

1 : 2334 theoreo theh-o-reh'-o

2
3 from a derivative of 2300 (perhaps by addition of 3708); to be a
4 spectator of, i.e. discern, (literally, figuratively (experience) or
5 intensively (acknowledge)):-behold, consider, look on, perceive, see.
6 Compare 3700.

7 see GREEK for 2300

8 see GREEK for 3708

9 see GREEK for 3700

John 6:47-58 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If

anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.

43.2 Jesus, the Bread of Life

Doing words (verbs):, eats, feeds, drinks.

Action is required on the part of the believer - walking in the light, as he is in the light.

Obeying Jesus:

- Believing in him
- Continuing to believe in him
- Trusting him
- Obeying him

John 6:48-58 - I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever **feeds** on my flesh and **drinks** my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.

Hebrews 10:16-22 - This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

43.2.1 They will be taught by God, through Jesus

Isaiah 54:5-17 - For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer. This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you. O afflicted one,

storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of agate, your gates of carbuncles, and all your wall of precious stones. **All your children shall be taught by the Lord**, and great shall be the peace of your children. **In righteousness you shall be established**; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you. Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy; no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.

Isaiah 30:20-21 - And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, **This is the way, walk in it**, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

John 6:44-47 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 - But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, Know the LORD, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (ESV)

43.3 Abiding in Jesus; Abiding in the Truth

John 6:33 - For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Believing ((G4100 pisteuo, trusts)) in Jesus is God's good work. Believing ((G4100 pisteuo, trusts)) in Jesus keeps us alive.

John 5:17-29 - But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)

Obeying Jesus keeps us alive. Following Jesus keeps us alive.
He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that **you believe (G4100 pisteuo) in him whom he has sent.** (ESV)

John 6:56 - He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Get intimate with Jesus - **really** intimate.

I believe this means to become a disciple of Jesus and become one in spirit with Jesus; to think like Jesus, to walk as Jesus walked, to love God and obey God as Jesus did, even if one is persecuted for being righteous as happened to Jesus, to do as Jesus commanded, to become one in spirit with Jesus. Also, taking communion is about that.

I Peter 4:1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

It's really important to come to communion with the type of heart that would yearn to be a good disciple of Jesus - repentant and obedient, and thankful for what He has done.

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

I Corinthians 2:11-16 - For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

Leviticus 17:11 - For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

We must have faith in Jesus, we must hope in Jesus, and we must love like Jesus:

I Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (ESV)

43.3.1 One act of righteousness has made the way for us to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and in keeping Jesus' commandments

It's one act of righteousness that leads to us escaping corruption but it's through Jesus Christ, so we must abide in Him:

Romans 5:17-19 - If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (ESV)

So we must abide in Jesus in order to live:

John 6:53-56 - So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.** (ESV)

In our endeavour to be found in Christ we should flee from idolatry:

I Corinthians 10:14-22 - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (ESV)

II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.** (ESV)

In our endeavour to be fed by God, even fed the living bread, we should seek His kingdom:

Luke 12:29-31 - And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. (ESV)

God feeds us as we trust His Word, as we fear Him and keep His commandments for us. So we must keep the commandments which Jesus has given us which are from Father God. We obey Jesus' commandments and walk by the Spirit:

Deuteronomy 8:2-9 - And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. (ESV)

Luke 12:24 - Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! (ESV)

If by the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the body (ceasing to live according to the flesh), we will live:

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Get intimate with Jesus - **really** intimate.

I believe this means to become a disciple of Jesus and become one in spirit with Jesus; to think like Jesus, to walk as Jesus walked, to love God and obey God as Jesus did, even if one is persecuted for being righteous as happened to Jesus, to do as Jesus commanded, to become one in spirit with Jesus. Also, taking communion is about that.

I Peter 4:1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (ESV)

So the food which God gives us in Jesus is far superior to the manna that God gave the Israelites in the wilderness, because those who feed on Jesus will never die. And Jesus has promised that if we keep His commandments we will abide in His love:

John 6:48-51 - I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. (ESV)

Partaking in the Lord's supper is a means of feeding on Jesus, but so is trusting in Jesus' words and keeping His other commandments:

John 6:51 - I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:16 - The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:25-26 - In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:27-29 - Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning (**G1252 diakrinó**) the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (ESV)

When taking communion / eucharist, we should have Jesus as our #1 agape love and be taking our cross and following Him:

Matthew 10:37-38 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

When we drink the cup of the Lord, we must drink it in a worthy manner (**I Corinthians 11:24-29**)

- Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God
 - We must not be idolators

* **Matthew 10:37-38**

* **I Corinthians 10:14-31**

- We must be taking up our cross and following of Jesus
 - **Matthew 10:37-38**
 - **John 15:13** - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)
- In other words, we should have a law-abiding faith in Jesus Christ
 - **Matthew 22:36-40** - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

G1252 diakrinó Discernment That Strengthens Faith

The faithful use of **discernment** appears in passages that call believers to sift evidence, reach sound conclusions, and thus fortify trust in the Lord. In Matthew 16:3 Jesus rebukes His hearers for failing to “discern the signs of the times,” implying that right discernment would have led them to confess Him as Messiah. Likewise, Acts 15:9 celebrates that God “made no distinction between us and them, and purified their hearts by faith,” a divine act of discernment that opened the church to Gentiles. Such texts show that careful distinguishing can serve redemptive purposes.

John 5:42-47 - But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

We must have faith in Jesus to live:

John 3:17 - For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)

I John 4:9 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. (ESV)

John 5:26 - For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (ESV)

John 6:57 - As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. (ESV)

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? (ESV)

Father God gives us His spirit of Truth, and though the world will see Him no more, we will see Jesus and live because of Him:

John 14:15-21 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:14 - Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (ESV)

The drink is to believe (and agape love) and trust in Jesus Christ, including trusting and treasuring that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, who has come into the world, and drinking is receive the Holy Spirit:

John 4:10-56 - Jesus answered her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. Jesus said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.** (ESV)

The Holy Spirit is the living water:

John 7:37-39 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **Whoever believes in me**, as the Scripture has said, **Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.** Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)

God has works that we are able to work "while it is day":

John 9:4-5 - We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (ESV)

Trusting in Jesus we are labouring for this food which Jesus gives us, and it's God's work which He is doing in us, not our "own" work:

John 6:27-29 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

43.3.2 We must love - we must obey Jesus

Loving the way Jesus loves is a **requirement!**

Keeping Jesus' commandments is obeying Jesus. Obedience to Jesus is a requirement of a Christian - obedience in the heart, which translates into deeds.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteúo, pepisteukotas) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

John 13:35 - By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

I John 4:16 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

43.3.3 Communion is spiritual, and helps us to abide in Him

Christ's commandments must never be misconstrued as the commandments of men. The tradition of Christ, say of taking the Lord's Supper/Communion/Eucharist, which He gave us is not the same thing as the tradition of men.

I Corinthians 11:2 - Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. (ESV)

Read learn.ligonier.org: Why Did Jesus Institute the Lord's Supper on the Passover?

Regarding the fruit of the vine, which Jesus refers to at the Last Supper:

John 15:1-5 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (ESV)

Matthew 26:2 - You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified. (ESV)

Matthew 26:17-18 - Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover? He said, Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples. (ESV)

We do bear fruit for God, but it's done not under the old covenant Law as our Master. We serve in the new life of the Spirit. We still keep this tradition of Christ:

Matthew 26:26-29 - Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this **fruit of the vine** until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. (ESV)

Romans 7:4-6 - Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit. (ESV)

In our endeavour to be found in Christ we should flee from idolatry:

I Corinthians 10:14-22 - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (ESV)

II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

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Deuteronomy 8:2-9 - And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. (ESV)

Regarding having life and "eating of His flesh" and "drinking of His blood", I do not think this is necessarily exclusively through the Lord's supper, but rather it's to do the will of God, taking the Lord's supper is a part of that, and so is believing in Him, trusting Him and obeying Him. I also believe that that it is a matter of God feeding us.

Luke 12:24 - Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! (ESV)

It does seem as though an indicator that we are walking in the light is fellowship with one-another. In that sense I see it as a good sign that I haven't found myself restricted to any particular denominational church gathering because the body of Christ wouldn't be so limited:

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Jesus right here says He gives water to those who believe/trust/have faith in Him:

John 4:10-14 - Jesus answered her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. The woman said to him, Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock. Jesus said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (ESV)

John 7:38-39 - Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water**. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)

So there is the living water we receive through faith in Jesus and there is Jesus' blood, which is true/real drink, which we are to have faith in. We need to have faith in Jesus Christ's blood.

Partaking in the Lord's supper, we remember Jesus and proclaim His death until He comes, so in taking the Lord's supper, we are agreeing with and having faith in the Truth and hoping in Jesus:

I Corinthians 11:24-29 - and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning (**G1252 diakrinó**) the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Taking the Lord's supper is a nice thing to do in sincerity and truth, knowing our Passover lamb has been sacrificed, and not done out of fear for wrath, or according to man's tradition/commandments. I believe that I could bless a cup and take the Lord's supper at home, for example. I do not believe it's something which needs to be done on a specific day and in a specific regular congregation, but I do think it needs to be done with others who are in agreement with sound doctrine, who have been baptised:

John 6:32-41 - Jesus then said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. They said to him, Sir, give us this bread always. Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. (ESV)

John 4:34 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (ESV)

It is necessary to eat of Jesus' flesh and drink of His blood to abide in Jesus. I think this is effective with faith in Jesus:

John 6:53-58 - So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.

In our endeavour to be found in Christ we should flee from idolatry:

I Corinthians 10:14-22 - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (ESV)

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We remember Jesus as we take communion:

- We give thanks to God
 - **Colossians 3:17** - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks (G2168 **eucharisteo**) to God the Father through him. (ESV)
- We proclaim the Lord Jesus' death until He comes
- We examine ourselves and compare our hearts to the heart of the Lord Jesus
- We consider what our Lord Jesus has done for us on the cross
- Before we take communion, we want to examine our own heart to see how we could be more like Jesus
 - How we can be more selfless
 - How we can be more loving
 - How we can be more like disciples of Jesus
 - How we can be more trusting of Jesus

- * How we can be more believing of who He is and believing of His atoning sacrifice
- * How we can be more obedient to His commandments
- We believe that Jesus will return

When we drink the cup of the Lord, we must drink it in a worthy manner (**I Corinthians 11:24-29**)
- Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God
 - We must not be idolators
 - * **Matthew 10:37-38**
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- We must be taking up our cross and following of Jesus
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 - **Matthew 22:36-40** - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

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John 5:42-47 - But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:14-31 - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without

raising any question on the ground of conscience. For the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, This has been offered in sacrifice, then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (ESV)

When taking communion / eucharist, we should have Jesus as our #1 agape love and be taking our cross and following Him:

Matthew 10:37-38 - Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

I believe that taking the Eucharist absolutely has spiritual and physical effects, and the body and blood of Jesus are received through faith.

I Corinthians 11:30 - That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

Paul is talking about unity with other believers, participating together in the body of Christ, even through the sacrament of the Lord's supper / communion / the Eucharist:

I Corinthians 10:16-18 - The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, **we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.** Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?

I believe the body and blood of Jesus are received through faith and thanksgiving, and in unity with other believers, in the sacrament but also simply with faith (Hebrews 10:19-22), and with belief and obedience to Jesus through his words and commandments (I John 1:7), and it's my belief that we don't need to attend the Catholic mass exclusively to partake in this, but that taking the Lord's supper / communion with believers in other church denominations is being just as effective and faithful to Jesus.

Seems like a nice church organisation churchwithoutwallsinternational.org: Home - Church Without Walls International

If I were to attend the Catholic mass then I would simply receive it with faith, remembrance, repentance and thanksgiving, as I do at any other church I've attended. The way I currently view the Catholic mass is not "re-sacrificing Jesus" at all as people have said but "co-offering", which is a word which the following article uses to explain it:

- <https://stpaulcenter.com/victim-and-priest-christs-sacrifice-in-the-eucharist/>

However, there is only one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, and I do not need any other priest other than Jesus Christ himself in order to receive the Lord's supper:

I Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (ESV)

Those in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ are priests:

Revelation of John 5:10 - and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth. (ESV)

And Jesus is with us in Spirit:

II Corinthians 5:16 - From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. (ESV)

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:19 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

As I understand it, when we come to communion we understand that we want to be holy as He is holy. It's best to confess (G3670 homologeó) sin as sin and repent from it before coming to communion. Communion is a unity thing. We are united in love for one another, and holy living, and love of the Truth, and the bread and wine of the new covenant help us to be sanctified as we agree with the Truth:

Didache 10:6 - Let grace come, and let this world pass away. Hosanna to the Son of David. If any one is holy let him come (to the Eucharist); if any one is not, let him repent. Maranatha. Amen.

We must proclaim the Lord's death until He comes, discern the body and judge ourselves truly before and as we take Holy Communion:

I Corinthians 11:22-32 - What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning (**G1252 diakrinó**) the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But **if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.** But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

Proclaim the Lord's death until He comes:

I Corinthians 11:25-26 - In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Didache Chapter 4 ... Do not in any way forsake the commandments of the Lord; but keep what you have received, neither adding thereto nor taking away therefrom. In the church you shall acknowledge your transgressions, and you shall not come near for your prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of life.

Hebrews 7:28 - For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:27-27 - He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. (ESV)

While taking communion/eucharist, it's about faith in the blood of Jesus, the passion and death of Jesus. This is why I believe that taking communion with others outside of the Roman Catholic church is completely fine. God sees the heart. In other words, I think that communion/eucharist with believers on the top of a mountain in Ethiopia, or at home, or at church are equally effective.

We must be baptised to take the Lord's supper:

[earlychristianwritings.com didache-roberts.html](#): Didache. The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles {transla}

And concerning the broken bread: We thank Thee, our Father, for the life and knowledge which You madest known to us through Jesus Thy Servant; to Thee be the glory for ever. Even as this broken bread was scattered over the hills, and was gathered together and became one, so let Thy Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Thy kingdom; for Thine is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever.. But let no one eat or drink of your Eucharist, unless they have been baptized into the name of the Lord; for concerning this also the Lord has said, "Give not that which is holy to the dogs."

The Passover may be celebrated in the new way, recognising that Jesus, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed. It must be taken in sincerity and truth. Sure, it's a good idea to take the Eucharist/Lord's supper on Passover, but I don't think it must be exclusively taken on Passover:

I Corinthians 5:7-8 - Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **Let us therefore celebrate the festival**, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity and truth**. (ESV)

I think that holding the tradition of taking communion on Passover isn't "going back to Jewish custom". But I also do not think that it is an explicit commandment of Christ to only take the Lord's supper exclusively on Passover. So to say we are commanded to take the Lord's supper **on** Passover, I think is a stretch, but if it is done on Passover out of sincerity and truth, in agreement with the facts about Jesus, then I think that's a wonderful thing.

The Passover points to Jesus, and having begun in the Spirit, we're not trying to be perfected by the flesh. Jesus fulfilled the Law:

Colossians 2:16-17 - Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (ESV)

[reformedworship.org](#): The Lord's Supper: How Often? | Reformed Worship Several extrabiblical sources report more explicitly that the early church celebrated the Lord's Supper whenever it met for worship. These include the late first-century Didache, or the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, and the First Apology of Justin Martyr, which was written in the middle of the second century. In The Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus, which was written around A.D. 200 and is the oldest surviving Christian liturgy, the author documents the normal worship service at Rome, which included the Lord's Supper. Unfortunately, as early as the fourth century the laity had already begun to participate in the supper with decreasing frequency.

[earlychristianwritings.com justinmartyr-firstapology.html](#): Saint Justin Martyr: First Apology {Roberts-CHAPTER LXV – ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS. But we, after we have thus washed him who has been convinced and has assented to our teaching, bring him to the place where those who are called brethren are assembled, in order that we may offer hearty prayers in common for ourselves and for the baptized [illuminated] person, and for all others in every place, that we may be counted worthy, now that we have learned the truth, by our works also to be found good citizens and keepers of the commandments, so that we may be saved with an everlasting salvation. Having ended the prayers, we salute one another with a kiss. There is then brought to the president of the brethren bread and a cup of wine mixed with water; and he taking them, gives praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and offers thanks at considerable length for our being counted worthy to receive these things at His hands. And when he has concluded the prayers and thanksgivings, all the people present express their

assent by saying Amen. This word Amen answers in the Hebrew language to genoito [so be it]. And when the president has given thanks, and all the people have expressed their assent, those who are called by us deacons give to each of those present to partake of the bread and wine mixed with water over which the thanksgiving was pronounced, and to those who are absent they carry away a portion. CHAPTER LXVI – OF THE EUCHARIST. And this food is called among us Eukaristia [the Eucharist], of which no one is allowed to partake but the man who believes that the things which we teach are true, and who has been washed with the washing that is for the remission of sins, and unto regeneration, and who is so living as Christ has enjoined. For not as common bread and common drink do we receive these; but in like manner as Jesus Christ our Saviour, having been made flesh by the Word of God, had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so likewise have we been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word, and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh. For the apostles, in the memoirs composed by them, which are called Gospels, have thus delivered unto us what was enjoined upon them; that Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, said, "This do ye in remembrance of Me, this is My body;" and that, after the same manner, having taken the cup and given thanks, He said, "This is My blood;" and gave it to them alone. Which the wicked devils have imitated in the mysteries of Mithras, commanding the same thing to be done. For, that bread and a cup of water are placed with certain incantations in the mystic rites of one who is being initiated, you either know or can learn.

Romans 2:15-16 - They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 2:28-29 - For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 9:9-11 - For it is written in the Law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? (ESV)

43.3.4 Excerpt from [bibleref.com](#) on 1 Corinthians 11:29

Discerning the Body [bibleref.com 1-Corinthians-11-29.html](http://bibleref.com/1-Corinthians-11-29.html): What does 1 Corinthians 11:29 mean? | BibleRef.com

What does 1 Corinthians 11:29 mean? This is a sobering verse, especially for believers who regularly participate in communion. Paul has already warned Christians to examine themselves before taking part in the Lord's Supper to avoid doing so in an unworthy way:

I Corinthians 11:28 - Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (ESV)

The cup represents Christ's blood, and the bread represents His broken body. The purpose of taking communion is to commemorate and reflect on the sacrificial death of Jesus:

Matthew 26:26-28 - Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

To do so without "discerning the body" brings judgment on the participant. The first question this raises is the precise meaning of "discerning the body." Bible scholars primarily suggest two ways of interpreting this, both of which are reasonable, and which can even both be true.

The first suggestion is that this refers to a recognition: that the symbolic parallel to Christ's body in the elements of the bread and cup causes a Christian to see them as different from other food. In other words, the Lord's Supper should not be treated like just another meal used to satisfy physical hunger.

It must be approached with respect as something much more meaningful and important. This first view of "discerning the body" would fit with Paul's instructions in the following verses about not coming hungry to the Lord's Supper gathering. The Corinthians were clearly not doing this:

I Corinthians 11:17-22 - But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. (ESV)

Along with that, partaking in communion is "proclaiming" the death of Jesus:

I Corinthians 11:26 - For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (ESV)

If a person proclaims Jesus' death, but is disobedient to the gospel, that person is essentially daring God to judge them:

Galatians 6:6-7 - One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. (ESV)

Whether by ignorance, arrogance, or simple error, insulting the sacrifice of Christ-even symbolically-is something God takes seriously. The second interpretive view is that "discerning the body" means recognizing the relationship between Christ's body and the "body of Christ," known as the church.

In other words, we must see Christ in our fellow Christians and treat them as we would treat Jesus when we come together. This view fits with what Paul wrote here:

I Corinthians 10:16-17 - The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. (ESV)

Whichever view Paul intended, both are necessary.

youtube.com: The Olympic Blasphemy {@PatristicNectarFilms} The great irony of this blasphemous charade in Paris is that the organizers who had this incredible opportunity to bring the world together through sport mocked and disgraced the only One who can actually pull it off, Jesus himself, the only one who died for every person from every nation, who has been for 2,000 years gathering people of every color, of every language, of every nation in the world together in one body, joined to him whose love envelops all people and pulls all people together, the one who actually can unify, the **only** one who actually can unify all the peoples of the world, the Olympic committee decides to mock and hold up to public disgrace.

...

We have to pray and ask the Lord to visit each one with repentance so that they can be saved. Remember, St. Paul was a blasphemer and look what the mercy of the Lord did for him, making him our champion. What I would really hope, what I want, I told my parishioners this yesterday, I want to catechize and baptize everyone who was involved in concocting this evil scheme and foisting it upon the world. I want to catechize and baptize them all. I want to be able to wash this heinous sin away from them in the waters of holy baptism and nourish them with the very eucharist that they held up to public mockery.

43.3.5 Getting Jesus' words in us helps us to abide in Him

If a person believes Jesus' words their faith will grow.

Father God authorizes people to come to Jesus, but that person must come to Jesus (of their own volition, I think).

John 6:61-65 - But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) **in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

John 15:3-4 - Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

We've got to believe Jesus:

John 5:37-38 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. (ESV)

John 15:7 - If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (ESV)

43.3.6 Living the way Jesus commanded us helps us to abide in Him

Living as Jesus instructed us to live. Living as Jesus also lived.

I John 3:24 - **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

I John 4:16 - **So we have come to know and to believe** the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

44 The day

If someone has the light in him, he walks in the day.

I Thessalonians 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

John 9:3-5 - Jesus answered, It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (ESV)

John 12:35 - So Jesus said to them, The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. (ESV)

Walking in the light is walking righteously, in love and holiness and truth:

Ephesians 5:1-17 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (ESV)

If someone walks in the day with the light in them, they will not stumble. With the light in them, they should not be concerned about such worries. They should put confidence in the light.

John 11:6-10 - So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, Let us go to Judea again. The disciples said to him, Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again? Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him. (ESV)

Interestingly, Jesus goes confidently back to Judea where the disciples were worried he would be stoned, but instead of someone killing Jesus, Jesus resurrects Lazarus. I guess it pays to walk while you have the light.

John 11:11-15 - After saying these things, he said to them, Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him. The disciples said to him, Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover. Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him. (ESV)

We should be more confident with the light!

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

II Corinthians 8:1-2 - We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for **in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity** on their part. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: This Is The Day {Garratt}

Romans 13:12-14 - The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us **cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.** Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.** (ESV)

44.1 No more night

Revelation 22:3-5 - No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (ESV)

Matthew 17:1-3 - And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. (ESV)

45 Christian perfection through suffering with Christ is a thing

- en.wikipedia.org: Christian perfection - Wikipedia

45.1 Living a godly life in Christ Jesus is to be wise for salvation

II Timothy 3:12-15 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

45.2 Unity in faith and truth and love

We must love in the truth:

II John 1:1-4 - The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom **I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth,** because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. (ESV)

Ezekiel 33:31-32 - So My people come to you as usual, sit before you, and hear your words; but they do not put them into practice. Although they express love with their mouths, their hearts pursue dishonest gain. Indeed, you are to them like a singer of love songs with a beautiful voice, who skillfully plays an instrument. They hear your words but do not put them into practice. (engbsb2020eb)

Colossians 3:14 - Beyond all (G3956 pas) these things put on love (G26 agape), which (G3739 hos) is the perfect bond of unity. (NASB)

John 17:23 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:13 - Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

John 17:23 - I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected (G5048 teleioo) in unity, so that the world (G2889 kosmos) may know (G1097 ginosko) that You sent Me, and loved (G25 agapao) them, even as You have loved (G25 agapao) Me. (NASB)

I Peter 3:8-12 - Finally, all of you, have **unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Ephesians 4:2 - with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (ESV)

Zechariah 7:9 - Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, (ESV)

Matthew 18:33 - And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you? (ESV)

Colossians 3:12-13 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** (ESV)

I John 3:18-19 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; (ESV)

Ephesians 4:1-6 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (ESV)

Romans 6:5 - For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:10 - I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. (ESV)

Psalms 133:1 - Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (ESV)

45.3 It's wholeness and fullness, knowledge of Jesus

I Corinthians 13:10 - but when the perfect (G5046 teleios) comes, the partial (G3313 meros) will be done away.

Ephesians 4:13 - until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (ESV)

45.4 It's cleaning ourselves up from all defilement of flesh and spirit

II Corinthians 7:1 - Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves (G1438 heautou) from all (G3956 pas) defilement of flesh (G4561 sarx) and spirit (G4151 pneuma), **perfecting holiness in the fear of God** (G2316 theos).

45.5 It's a process leading to the day of Christ Jesus

Philippians 3:12 - Not that I have already obtained (G2983 lambano) it or have already become perfect (G5048 teleioo), but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which (G3739 hos) also I was laid hold of by Christ (G5547 Christos) Jesus (G2424 Iesous).

Philippians 1:6 - For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work (G2041 ergon) in you will perfect it until the day (G2250 hemera) of Christ (G5547 Christos) Jesus (G2424 Iesous).

45.6 Having suffered for righteousness-sake

Jesus mends (G2675 katartizo) us after a little suffering, and stabilises (G4741 sterizo) us, makes us strong (G4599 sthenoo) and makes us stable (G2311 themelioo), establishing us:

I Peter 5:10 - After you have suffered (G3958 pascho) for a little (G3641 oligos) while (G3641 oligos), the God (G2316 theos) of all (G3956 pas) grace (G5485 charis), who called (G2564 kaleo) you to His eternal (G166 aionios) glory (G1391 doxa) in Christ (G5547 Christos), will Himself (G846 autos) perfect (G2675 katartizo), confirm (G4741 sterizo), strengthen (G4599 sthenoo) and establish (G2311 themelioo) you.

45.7 Without lack

James 1:4 - And let endurance have its perfect (5046. teleios) result (G2041 ergon), so that you may be perfect (G5046 teleios) and complete, lacking in nothing. (NASB)

James 2:22 - You see that faith (G4102 pistis) was working with (4903. sunergeó) his works (G2041 ergon), and as a result of the works (G2041 ergon), faith (G4102 pistis) was perfected (G5048 teleioo);

4903. sunergeó Definition: to work together. Usage: I cooperate with, work together.

In treasuring Jesus' words, keeping them, guarding them, observing them, in Him the agape (treasuring, valuing love) has truly been perfected. Having Jesus' teachings in us clearly should result in us walking as He did:

I John 2:5-6 - but whoever keeps (5083. téreó) His word (G3056 logos), in him the love (G26 agape) of God (G2316 theos) has truly been perfected (G5048 teleioo). By this we know (G1097 ginosko) that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

I John 4:12 - No one has seen God (G2316 theos) at any time; if we love (G25 agapao) one another, God (G2316 theos) abides in us, and His love (G26 agape) is perfected (G5048 teleioo) in us.

45.8 Perfection is the result of sanctification

Hebrews 5:8-10 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:11 - Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?

Hebrews 2:11-12 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves (G1438 heautou) from all (G3956 pas) defilement of flesh (G4561 sarx) and spirit (G4151 pneuma), **perfecting holiness in the fear of God** (G2316 theos).

45.8.1 Faith

Hebrews 12:2 - looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (ESV)

There's a lot in the Bible to explain what is the revealed will of God. Continuing on in discerning the will of God we should have a renewed mind. We should obey Jesus:

youtube.com: How Do We Know the Will of God? | John Piper Clip {@desiringGod} The Bible does not tell you which person to marry, or whether to marry. The Bible does not tell you which car to drive, or buy, rent. The Bible doesn't tell you whether to buy a home or not which home to buy. [The] Bible doesn't tell you which brand of orange juice to drink. There are 10,000 decisions you must make that are not explicitly addressed in the Bible so what do you do? If you want to obey the will of command my answer is you must have a renewed mind. That's what the text says.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

We end up thinking in a similar fashion to Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to do the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

45.8.2 Spirit

Hebrews 12:23: - to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven (G3772 ouranos), and to God (G2316 theos), the Judge of all (G3956 pas), and to the spirits (G4151 pneuma) of the righteous (G1342 dikaios) made (G5048 teleioo) perfect (G5048 teleioo),

45.8.3 Holiness

James 3:2-3 - For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:1 - For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. (ESV)

Jesus' sacrifice is comprehensive. But God sanctifies us that we are no longer lawless, and if we go back to sin then that is very bad:

Hebrews 10:16-18 - This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Even Simon the magician believed and was baptised but it is evident that even the Apostle Peter recognised that Simon might perish. As far as I can tell Simon had not yet received Holy Spirit. His heart still wasn't right. Just like Simon, we must receive the love of the truth in our heart to be saved. Simon was instructed to repent from sin. While true agape love is the bond of perfection, I think the bond of iniquity might mean a love of darkness. Simon had to relinquish his sinful desire. Likewise, the rich young ruler (in Mark 10:17-27) had a love of worldly possessions. We need to agape love the truth and fall out of love of darkness. Even as believers, we need to continue on in the teachings of Christ to be saved:

Acts 8:12-20 - But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip.** And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him, **May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!** (ESV)

Jesus said to these believers that if they abide in His word (and I believe that means keep His word, even in obedience), they are His disciples - so a person can be a believer before they are a disciple. But we're supposed to make this transition:

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. *pisteuó, pepisteukotas*) in him, **If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.** (ESV)

I believe that Simon the magician after initially believing the gospel and being baptised needed to continue in obedience to God, continue trusting in Jesus, turn away from wickedness, purify his heart, draw near to God and receive Holy Spirit and be sanctified. We're instructed to "draw near to God through Jesus Christ" to be saved:

James 4:8 - **Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

Hebrews 7:23-28 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

So you see, we must continue on in faith in Jesus Christ, and abiding abiding in His teachings:

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó - value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs - unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina - in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

biblehub.com 3-16.htm: John 3:16 Interlinear: for God did so love the world, that His Son – the only begotten – He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during.

Sanctification is a part of salvation which results in a heart and mind that agape loves the truth:

Hebrews 10:10-39 - And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws on their hearts, and**

write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, Vengeance is mine; I will repay. And again, The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Lawless acts come from unbelief:

I Timothy 1:12-14 - I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

OK, so as a people that Jesus purchased for His own posession, we are brought to no longer be lawless, and the deeds we committed when we were lawless is what God will no longer remember. But we are corrected:

Hebrews 10:16-17 - This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:9 - (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, (ESV)

45.8.4 Love / knowing Jesus / Truth

In agape love treasuring Jesus' words, keeping them, guarding them, observing them, obeying them out of trusting in Jesus, in Him the agape (treasuring, valuing love) has truly been perfected. Having Jesus' teachings in us clearly should result in us walking as He did:

I John 2:5-6 - but whoever keeps (**5083. téreó**) His word (G3056 logos), in him the love (G26 agape) of God (G2316 theos) has truly been perfected (G5048 teleioo). By this we know (G1097 ginosko) that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

We are commanded to reject the idols to treasure God first. If we do this then we draw near to God and God draws near to us:

II Corinthians 6:17-18 - Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, and **touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you**, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:23-28 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. (ESV)

Psalms 73:25-28 - Whom have I in heaven but you? And **there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you**. My flesh and my heart may fail, but **God is the strength of my heart and my portion** forever. For behold, **those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you**. But for me **it is good to be near God**; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works. (ESV)

Having an obedience that is based on trust in Jesus, we come into doing the will of God:

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal for the prize of **the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** (ESV)

Following the teachings of Christ out of a trust in Jesus:

Didache Chapter 6 - See that no one causes you to err from this way of the Teaching, since apart from God it teaches you. For if you are able to bear the entire yoke of the Lord, you will be perfect; but if you are not able to do this, do what you are able.

Matthew 5:47-48 - And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Agape treasuring our family in Christ, God abides in us:

I John 4:12 - No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (ESV)

John 8:19 - They said to him therefore, Where is your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

John 17:22-23 - The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (ESV)

46 Eldership

46.1 Cultivating discipleship

I believe that opportunity to exercise Christ's love should be encouraged, and the benefit of the doubt should be given for the sake of Jesus, rather than punishing newborn Christians and disciples of Jesus.

Philippians 2:3 - Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (ESV)

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:7 - for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:8-10 - But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. (ESV)

46.2 Don't dominate the flock, but be an example

We're supposed to lead by example.

To be domineering is to behave like a lord.

II Corinthians 1:24 - Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. (ESV)

1 Peter 5:1-4 - So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the **glory** that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **not domineering** over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:6 - yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Ephesians 4:5 - one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

I Corinthians 11:3 - But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (ESV)

46.2.1 Jesus is our only Teacher and Lord

I John 2:27 - But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him. (ESV)

I John 2:24 - Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. (ESV)

John 13:13 - You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. (ESV)

Matthew 23:8 - But you are not to be called rabbi, for **you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.** (ESV)

Matthew 23:10 - Neither be called instructors, for **you have one instructor (G2519. kathégétés), the Christ.** (ESV)

2519. kathégétés Definition: Teacher, Leader, Guide. Meaning: a leader, teacher, guide, master.

youtube.com: Humbling Ourselves @time: 13 min 3 sec Pride considers itself above instruction. When God speaks and we don't listen.

Jeremiah 13:9-11 - Thus says the LORD: Even so will I spoil the pride of Judah and the **great pride** of Jerusalem. **This evil people, who refuse to hear my words**, who **stubbornly follow their own heart** and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the LORD, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen. (ESV)

Elders, listen to God. Those who are younger, be subject to the elders:

I Peter 5:5-7 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (ESV)

46.2.2 Jesus has said we must forsake sin and follow Jesus to enter the kingdom

Stop serving sin, and start serving Jesus.

Anyone who says otherwise is a false teacher:

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

Luke 13:2-9 - And he answered them, Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent (3340. metanoeó), you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent (3340. metanoeó), you will all likewise perish. And he told this parable: A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground? And he answered him, Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down. (ESV)

Luke 18:18-27 - And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. Jesus, looking at him with sadness, said, How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. Those who heard it said, Then who can be saved? But he said, What is impossible with men is possible with God.

We stop obeying sin and start obeying Jesus, our Master:

II Peter 2:1 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, **even denying the Master who bought them**, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

Acts 20:20-21 - how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

46.3 Forsake sin and serve Jesus

Proverbs 20:23 - Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and **false scales** are not good. (ESV)

Proverbs 21:27 - The **sacrifice of the wicked** is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:22 - **Lying lips** are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight. (ESV)

Proverbs 15:26 - The **thoughts of the wicked** are an abomination to the LORD, but gracious words are pure. (ESV)

Proverbs 29:27 - An **unjust man** is an abomination to the righteous, but one whose way is straight is an abomination to the wicked. (ESV)

Proverbs 3:32 - for the **devious person** is an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence. (ESV)

Proverbs 6:16-19 - There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: **haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.** (ESV)

Proverbs 17:15 - **He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous** are both alike an abomination to the LORD. (ESV)

Proverbs 28:9 - If one **turns away his ear from hearing the law**, even his prayer is an abomination. (ESV)

Do not even seek them out:

Leviticus 19:31 - Do not turn to **mediums or wizards**; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God. (ESV)

Exodus 22:18 - You shall not permit a **sorceress** to live. (ESV)

Leviticus 20:27 - A man or a woman who is a **medium or a wizard** shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood shall be upon them. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (ESV)

Leviticus 20:6 - If a person turns to **mediums and wizards, whoring after them**, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. (ESV)

I Samuel 15:22-23 - And Samuel said, Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

46.3.1 Jesus when He sets us free, helps us to stop sinning

I John 3:8 - Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (ESV)

John 8:36 - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

46.4 Put sin to death

I think it's really important to 'stop sinning', and particularly against your own body, especially after being placed into Christ.

It's important to no longer will to do the sin, and to will for the sin to stop, and to cooperate with Jesus in putting a stop to it.

This is a strong warning:

Hebrews 12:15-17 - See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that **no root of bitterness** springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that **no one is sexually immoral** or **unholy** like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. (ESV)

[youtube.com: Has My Sexual Sin Made Me Unsavable?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgjyfJzXWUw)

1 Dear Heavenly Father, Jehovah God,
2 please God help me to:
3 - stop bitterness and unforgiveness
4 - stop all sexual immorality
5 - stop all unholiness
6 In Jesus Christ's name I ask,
7 AMEN!!

I read this somewhere:

1 The key to overcoming repetitive sins is to read God's word everyday and then
2 praying and surrendering yourself to Christ. Ask God to lead you away from
3 temptation and to deliver you from evil. Remain vigilant on what your eye sees
4 and what you ears hear. God bless.

46.4.1 We want to be transformed

My biggest problems exist inside of me, not outside:

[youtube.com: War of Words: Getting to the Heart for God's Sake @time: 27 min 21 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgjyfJzXWUw) when you are able to convince yourself that your deepest greatest problems in life exist outside of you not inside of you you quit being a seeker after the transforming grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon :: youtube.com: Killing Lust with the Cross of Christ Step 1: The sin is cancelled by the blood of Christ. We're Justified before God, and then **Step 2:** We purge that sin from our lives; Can't ever get that backwards. Sin canceled, *then* sin purged.

46.4.2 Quote from John Piper

There's a whole cloud of witnesses that finished the race. They have lined up along the race course of your life and they are shouting to you from chapter 11, "You're not helpless. By faith you can do this. You could be killed. You can walk out of lust and out of pornography. By faith you can do this. That great cloud of witnesses did not become Esaus. And that great cloud ends with Jesus in verse 2 of chapter 12."

Faith chapter:

- Hebrews 11:12:2

46.4.3 Also, my thoughts

I like to think that there are actually lots of people cheering me on during my race who have already finished the race. I hope to finish it. I really hope to finish it.

Dear Heavenly Father, Jehovah God, Please, LORD Jesus, let me finish the race. Do not abandon me Jesus, please. Please let me put all the sin to death. I want it to die. I do not want to be killed by it. In Jesus Christ's name I pray, AMEN!

46.5 Those that are younger, be subject to the elders

I Peter 5:5 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

God's grace goes to the humble.

46.6 It's more important to obey God if an elder is teaching falsehood

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men.

I Corinthians 11:3 - But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:23 - For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

46.6.1 Obedience to Christ is also necessary for salvation

Hebrews 5:8-10 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

So sometimes a person needs to choose Jesus over false teachers and blind guides.

47 Concerning Baptism (taken from the Didache)

1 Chapter 7.
2
3 Concerning Baptism.
4
5 And concerning baptism, baptize this way:
6 Having first said all these things, baptize
7 into the name of the Father, and of the Son,
8 and of the Holy Spirit, in living water.
9
10 But if you have no living water, baptize into
11 other water; and if you cannot do so in cold
12 water, do so in warm.
13
14 But if you have neither, pour out water three
15 times upon the head into the name of Father
16 and Son and Holy Spirit.
17
18 But before the baptism let the baptizer fast,
19 and the baptized, and whoever else can; but
20 you shall order the baptized to fast one or
21 two days before.

- Trinitarian.

– Baptising into the Trinitarian name of the LORD God

* AMEN!!

- Moving water:
 - Immersion in a river, for example
 - Pouring is fine interestingly, also

[youtube.com: The Didache: The Earliest Christian Writing After the Bible](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfXzvDwzjU)

- The Holy Spirit poured out onto the people of God.

I was baptised again to rededicate my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. I see no problem with getting baptised again, personally. I see it as like renewing wedding vows. I've only been made a child of God, born-again of the spirit (grafted into Christ), once, though!

I have been baptised 3 times total now, but I would not recommend more than one baptism!

But being born-again as a child of God through the spirit only happened to me one time.

But each time I was baptised it was in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I've got my reasons why this has happened.

The summary of it is that while I was water baptised at 15-17 years old, nothing much appeared to happen.

But at 35 I was spontaneously born-again of the Spirit after a little repentance and seeking God.

After I was born-again of the spirit, I began studying and writing about early Christian writings including stuff which is not canon, and writing out and responding to my visions online, and that appears to have had a strong effect on my world and relationships.

For example, as a consequence I had a dream of a mass baptism 10 days in advance and was drawn into a church again and I got baptised again, which in retrospect I believe was a mistake.

I wanted to get baptised the last time to really show God I was all in with Jesus, with nothing else, and to repent of sin, to repent of declaring any public endorsement of gay 'marriage', to fall out of agreement with Valentinianism, to repent towards holiness and a more sound understanding of the Christian faith - I wanted a good conscience with God.

And now I feel like I'm dealing with the fallout of a very messy and action-packed born-again experience, but at this stage I no longer feel condemnation, and I feel a lot stronger in my faith and prepared, and I have a good conscience with God.

Repentance after being born-again of the Spirit is biblical:

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

I John 3:2-7 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:16-17 - Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:18-20 - Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Each time I was baptised, was into the names of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Well, actually, the third time I had actually been baptised in the names of Almighty Father God, His Only-Begotten and precious Jesus Christ, and His Holy Spirit.

So therefore, I don't see the big problem with wanting to rededicate myself to Jesus, but I would definitely recommend sticking to doing this one time, and also at the point where you really want to partake in the resurrection of Jesus - I think believer's baptism is Scriptural.

I don't have all the answers guys to how it works! But Jesus did say:

John 3:8 - The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

47.1 We are baptised into Christ, not into a denomination

Romans 6:3 - Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:13 - Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (ESV)

Ephesians 4:4-5 - There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (ESV)

47.2 Baptism with faith in the blood of Jesus

Deuteronomy 32:4 - The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. (ESV)

So praying to God for mercy might be also a matter regarding justice. God's justice and His mercy are not mutually exclusive. In Jesus' parable the widow was crying out for justice and mercy at the same time:

Luke 18:1-14 - And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Give me justice against my adversary. For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming. And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? , Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

So praying to God for mercy can actually be asking God for justice. God's justice and His mercy are not mutually exclusive. Jesus said the merciful will receive mercy, so that reception of mercy from having been merciful is also just, as Jesus' word is true.

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

This verse also shows it. God is **just** to forgive us of our sins when we confess (agree with Him over) our sins. Mercy and justice at the same time:

I John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

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When we appeal to God for mercy with faith in the blood of Jesus, and are baptised as an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we do so not appealing to God out of our own righteousness (as it sounds like the widow is doing in Luke 18:1-14) but with faith in Jesus' Christ's blood. We appeal to God for mercy, asking God to have mercy on us because Jesus died for our sins and this propitiation is available for those who have faith in His blood. And God is just when He grants us mercy for a good conscience. But God is both just and the justifier.

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

"Please save me from my sin because Jesus Christ, Son of God, died for me to rescue me from sin - I believe it."

I Peter 3:21 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (ESV)

It's appealing to God like this, "The sin is enslaving and the judgement against me is correct but Jesus died for me to set me free from condemnation. Please let me live in freedom from sin."

I don't want to live under condemnation and I don't want to live in slavery to sin. Please, God, have mercy on me and clean me. (beat hand on chest). And God is at liberty to grant it because He is the justifier, and you'll experience it if God grants it. We don't want the resurrection of judgement. We want the resurrection of life.

John 5:28-29 - Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)

Even Simon the magician believed and was baptised but it is evident that even the Apostle Peter recognised that Simon might perish. As far as I can tell Simon had not yet received Holy Spirit. His heart still wasn't right. Just like Simon, we must receive the love of the truth in our heart to be saved. Simon was instructed to **repent from sin**. While true agape love is the bond of perfection, I think the bond of iniquity might mean a love of darkness. Simon had to relinquish his sinful desire. Likewise, the rich young ruler (in Mark 10:17-27) had a love of worldly possessions. We need to agape love the truth and fall out of love of darkness. Even as believers, we need to continue on in the teachings of Christ to be saved:

Acts 8:12-20 - But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip.** And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him, **May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!** (ESV)

So you see, we must continue on in faith in Jesus Christ, and abiding abiding in His teachings:

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó - value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs - unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina - in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

biblehub.com 3-16.htm: John 3:16 Interlinear: for God did so love the world, that His Son – the only begotten – He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during.

47.3 'Rebaptism' and baptism as an appeal to God for a good conscience

OK, so if a person has been baptised into Christ's death, if a person has the spirit of God living within them, then they have the ability to please God (Romans 8:8-9), and the power of God (Romans 15:19, Romans 15:19, Matthew 12:28, Colossians 1:29) works in and through them, and considering that baptism is an appeal for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Peter 3:21), but they're already going through the process (Romans 6:3) and the power of God is already working in them, then what it is is another appeal, but not another total death as they're already alive (Romans 8:10, John 11:26).

We are supposed to keep a good conscience with God (I Timothy 1:18-20) as we fight the good fight of faith. Yes, getting water baptised after being born-again of the spirit seems to be a "reality-transforming" experience, but so seems to be any confession or affirmation that we make after being made alive.

We are baptised into Christ ultimately, so while being baptised in water again may have some reality-shifting consequences, such as dramatic changes in a person's relationships with other people, there is an even higher reality of a singular overarching spiritual baptism into Christ's death John 11:26 as we live while maintaining their faith in Jesus Christ. We don't get grafted out of Christ with rebaptism, so long as we are maintaining a genuine faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 11:17-21) as affirming faith in Jesus Christ and endeavoring to maintain a good conscience with God are what we are supposed to continue doing as we fight the good fight of faith (I Timothy 1:18-20).

So, therefore, after rebaptising as an appeal for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the resurrection which they're still going through (if they've already died with Christ), there'd probably be some

dramatic shifts in a person's life regarding the people they interact with, but assuming that the person being baptised is affirm their faith in Christ, and maintaining their fear of God and self-humbling wanting God to be merciful to them and doing this as an appeal to God for a good conscience with God, I don't think getting baptised again is detrimental in any way, but could be seen as a public declaration of one's faith in Jesus Christ as they endeavour to maintain a good conscience (I Timothy 1:5) with God, which we have been called to do as we fight the good fight of faith (I Timothy 1:18-20).

Sure, it might be disruptive and perhaps some people might question whether or not that person even deserves another chance, a redo, but as far as a person's standing with God goes, it can only be a good thing. As Jesus mentioned that it is those who humble themselves who will be exalted (Luke 18:13-14).

Beating hand on chest and asking God for mercy, appealing to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ can only be a good thing.

I affirm "one baptism" for the remission of sins, as in the Nicene creed, and there can only be one spiritual baptism, that is dying with Christ, no matter how many water baptisms (Romans 6:3).

That being said, I don't think multiple water baptism are ever needed, but I don't think I should be prohibited because it's an appeal to God for a good conscience through Christ's resurrection which the person may already be going through as they fight the good fight of faith.

But I definitely don't think it should be standard practice.

More appropriate than getting water baptised again would be public confession.

I believe that believer's baptism is correct practice and if a person's initial baptism was not them appealing to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ then I believe they should be allowed to be baptised again.

48 Can other religions exist anywhere in the Kingdom of God? They have to put their faith in and follow Jesus

We have the freedom to choose who we will serve.

Serving the One True God through Jesus Christ is life. Serving anything else is death.

It's not really the religion but the person who puts their faith in Jesus and **obeys** the gospel who will be saved.

John 7:24 - Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment. (ESV)

Also, no-one can save themself from eternal damnation - it's only the blood of Jesus which can.

We shouldn't join ourselves to the religions which do not serve Jesus, but make idols out of other things

We need unity in faith and **truth** and love. We are to be taught by Jesus from the gospels. We are supposed to learn Jesus, being taught about Him, *and* taught in Him, to put off the old serve which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. The Truth is in Jesus, the correct Jesus:

Ephesians 4:11-25 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,**

and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (ESV)

The words Jesus Christ spoke were **altogether** a commandment of eternal life which Father God had given Jesus to speak:

John 12:49-50 - For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

It is all by God's grace that we are saved. A believing and obedient heart is a trusting heart - a heart of faith - and our obedience gives us confidence. All glory to God alone. We must obey Jesus to become like Jesus:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

I'd have more confidence if I was following Jesus is reality and **from the heart** but was caught up in incorrect theology, than if thought I had all the correct theology but didn't do what Jesus said. When confronted with the reality of Jesus Christ, we must believe Him, believe who He is, believe what He's done, love Him and put our faith in Him:

Correct Christology is important, but so is obeying Jesus' commandments:

Acts 24:22 - But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case. (ESV)

Matthew 21:28-31 - "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, 'I will, sir'; but he did not go. **Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first."** Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that **the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.**"

It's not the ones who merely have the correct doctrine who will stand in the congregation of the righteous, but the ones who do the will of God:

Psalms 5:5 - The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. (ESV)

I Corinthians 13:2 - And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. (ESV)

Romans 2:13 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 29:29 - The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (ESV)

We need to receive the love of the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:10 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (NASB)

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 3:10-11 - I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (ESV)

James 1:22 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (ESV)

Romans 2:13 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. (ESV)

I Timothy 4:16 - Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:5 - An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (ESV)

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}

The word of truth is free, and carries its own authority, disdaining to fall under any skilful argument, or to entice. But it would be believed for its own nobility, and for the confidence due to Him who sends it. Now the word of truth is sent from God; wherefore the freedom claimed by the truth is *not arrogant*. For being sent with authority, it were not fit that it should be required to produce proof of what is said; since neither is there any proof beyond itself, which is God. For every proof is more powerful and trustworthy than that which it proves; since what is disbelieved, until proof is produced, gets credit when such proof is produced, and is recognised as being what it was stated to be. But nothing is either more powerful or more trustworthy than the truth; so that he who requires proof of this is like one who wishes it demonstrated why the things that appear to the senses do appear. For the test of those things which are received through the reason, is sense; but of sense itself there is no test beyond itself. As then we bring those things which reason hunts after, to sense, and by it judge what kind of things they are, whether the things spoken be true or false, and then sit in judgment no longer, giving full credit to its decision; so also we refer all that is said regarding men and the world to the truth, and by it judge whether it be worthless or no. But the utterances of truth we judge by no separate test, giving full credit to itself.

For that reason, I would have more confidence before God if I was serving Him, having put sin to death and trying to be holy and selfless and loving in faith towards Jesus, than if I believed precise theology but had no changed life / love for Jesus:

Psalms 1:4-5 - The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; (ESV)

Those who follow Him and know Him are the ones who trust and obey His word, and their faith in Him is the proof. The doctrine is invulnerable, and we should affirm it and obey it to do battle against the adversary, the devil, to help the weak:

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}

And God, the Father of the universe, who is the perfect intelligence, is the truth. And the Word, being His Son, came to us, having put on flesh, revealing both Himself and the Father, giving to us in Himself resurrection from the dead, and eternal life afterwards. And this is Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. He, therefore, is Himself both the faith and the proof of Himself and of all things. Wherefore **those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him**. But since the adversary does not cease to resist many, and uses many and divers arts to ensnare them, that he may seduce the faithful from their faith, and that he may prevent the faithless from believing, it seems to me necessary that we also, being armed with the invulnerable doctrines of the faith, do battle against him in behalf of the weak.

Unity in Christ is unity in **faith** and **truth** and **love**:

Colossians 3:14 - Beyond all (G3956 pas) these things put on love (G26 agape), which (G3739 hos) is the perfect bond of unity.

John 17:23 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (ESV)

II Timothy 1:13 - Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

en.wikipedia.org: God Defend New Zealand - Wikipedia May our mountains ever be Freedom's ramparts on the sea, Make us faithful unto Thee, God defend our free land. Guide her in the nations' van, Preaching **love and truth** to man, Working out Thy glorious plan, God defend New Zealand.

Glorification can only come through being found in Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 42:8 - I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. (ESV)

And in Jesus Christ there is no sin:

I John 3:5-6 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him.

A comprehensive and broad understanding of the Bible is certainly important so we are not "tossed around by every wind of doctrine", and to grow into and become established in the knowledge of Jesus, and able to not be tossed around when people ask questions about doctrine (I have often felt tested in this way, and sometimes unprepared), and that is why I am writing this Bible study out:

Ephesians 4:11-16 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in **deceitful** schemes. Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (ESV)

We shouldn't go beyond what is written:

I Corinthians 4:6 - I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. (ESV)

We must keep ourselves in the love of God by obeying Jesus Christ's commandments, because we're awaiting to receive eternal life:

Jude 1:21 - **keep yourselves in the love of God**, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

Keeping Jesus Christ's commandments is a requirement to inherit eternal life, not an extra:

John 15:10 - **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Whoever truly believes Jesus trusts in and is obedient to Jesus. We must obey Jesus Christ, and that obedience means being a slave of righteousness, leading to sanctification, which leads to eternal life:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 (pisteuōn): This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. katechó Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.** As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?** So we see that **they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us;** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus.** We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

Therefore, I don't want to flat-out disqualify people who do not have precisely the correct doctrine or theology. Is there a subtle difference between 'believer' and 'saint'?

II Thessalonians 1:9-12 - They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be **marveled at among all who have believed**, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may **fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Saints keep the commandments of God:

Revelation of John 14:12 - Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Video youtube.com: Called to Be Saints | Charles Spurgeon | Devotional | Morning & Evening: Daily Readings

Quote by Charles Spurgeon All are "saints" whom God has called by His grace **and sanctified** by His Spirit;

Jesus is not ashamed to call brothers [and sisters] those who are cleaned up and sanctified through obedience to Jesus' gospel:

Hebrews 2:11 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (ESV)

John 8:47 - Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:2 - To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:2 - To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: (ESV)

Jesus goes to those who hear His voice to bring them into His flock:

John 10:16 - And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is God's servant. We are Jesus' servants. It is a kingdom of servants, obedient to God.

48.1 Not all religions are equal. There is only one true God, the Father of Jesus Christ who has re

Ignatius to the Magnesians 8 - Be not deceived with *strange doctrines*, nor with *old fables*, which are unprofitable. For if we still live according to the Jewish law, we acknowledge that we have not received grace. For the divinest prophets lived according to Christ Jesus. On this account also they were persecuted, being inspired by His grace to fully convince the unbelieving that there is **one God, who has manifested Himself by Jesus Christ His Son, who is His eternal Word**, not proceeding forth from silence, and who in all things pleased Him that sent Him.

The **only way** to Father God is through Jesus:

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

1 Corinthians 8:5-6 - For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth-as indeed there are many gods and many lords- yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (ESV)

Jesus Himself is the bread of God - Jesus Himself **is** the source of life:

John 6:33 - For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (ESV)

Jesus delivers us from the present evil age, that we may seek to please God as slaves/bond-servants of Christ:

Galatians 1:1-10 - Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the **Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — *not that there is another one*, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now **seeking the approval of man, or of God?** Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a **servant of Christ.** (ESV)

Micah 4:1-13 - It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God

forever and ever. In that day, declares the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted; and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore. And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem. Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in you? Has your counselor perished, that pain seized you like a woman in labor? Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you shall go out from the city and dwell in the open country; you shall go to Babylon. There you shall be rescued; there the LORD will redeem you from the hand of your enemies. Now many nations are assembled against you, saying, Let her be defiled, and let our eyes gaze upon Zion. But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor. Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion, for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs bronze; you shall beat in pieces many peoples; and shall devote their gain to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth. (ESV)

James 1:26 - If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. (ESV)

48.2 They also have to repent from idolatry

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:14-31 - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. For the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, This has been offered in sacrifice, then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (ESV)

youtube.com: Demons - documentary film with Dr. Michael S. Heiser {@logosbiblesoftware} @time: 6 m

An ancient person would build an idol, stone, wood, whatever it is. And they're not idiots, they know that they just built that thing. The idea wasn't that this is my deity and then it just dies there. The idea is that I will build this object as a home for a spiritual entity. They would do ceremonies on the idol like the opening of the mouth. Because opening of the mouth, that means it's alive because it takes in breath and all that kind of stuff just like someone who's breathing is alive. Well, they would transfer that thinking to this object, they would perform some ritual with the idea that when we open the mouth, the entity, the spirit entity, will come and inhabit the object or attach itself to the object. That's why in ancient texts when idols were destroyed, people aren't thinking, "Oh my god's dead now." No, they're thinking, "Man, when I get

home, I gotta build another one." and then apologize for letting that happen to the first house and then do the ritual again and then the deity will come back and reside with me, or in this temple or whatever it is. So there's a connection, there's a direct connection between idols and 'elohim' / gods, in the ancient world. They're not separable things in that one is real and the other isn't. The whole reason you created an idol was to get this real entity to attach itself to it and be with you so that you can barter with it. This is the essence of polytheism: You placate the gods, you believe that you need them on your side to live a good life. Let's go to Deuteronomy 32:17.

Deuteronomy 32:17 - They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. (ESV)

The Israelites are accused of not worshiping God, capital G-O-D, but instead worshiping sedim.

And then the next line says elohim, that they had not known.

So the sedim are called elohim in that verse. Now in the Septuagint, sedim gets translated as demons, daimonio. Paul quotes that verse, Deuteronomy 32:17, in 1 Corinthians 10:21 and 22, when he warns the Corinthians about not eating meat that had been sacrificed to demons.

I Corinthians 10:21-22 - You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (ESV)

Jesus is stronger than anything:

Luke 11:19-22 - And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. (ESV)

youtube.com: Demons - documentary film with Dr. Michael S. Heiser {@logosbiblesoftware} @time: 8 m

For all of you who wanna say, "Oh, it's just idols or just, objects of stone or whatever, and they don't have real entities behind them."

Why would Paul care then?" Are you saying that Paul didn't believe that demons were real? I'm sorry, but Paul did, okay?

Paul quotes this passage using elohim of these other entities.

That certainly did have idols made for them.

In the biblical worldview, these were real entities that mattered because they were hostile and could lead people astray, away from the true God.

Revelation of John 13:15-18 - And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666. (ESV)

48.2.1 Idolatry

Acts 17:29 - Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. (ESV)

Romans 1:23 - and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. (ESV)

Psalms 106:20 - They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass. (ESV)

Book timothykeller.com: Counterfeit Gods - Timothy Keller

Sermon youtube.com: Counterfeit Gods - Tim Keller

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

48.3 Jesus is reigning in power over everything - it's all in His control

Hebrews 2:8 - putting everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:21 - far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (ESV)

49 Man is made in the image of God

Job 33:4 - The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (ESV)

49.1 Male and female

Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (ESV)

Matthew 19:4 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, (ESV)

Man and woman, husband and wife are a single unit called Adam:

1	1254	3117	120	8034	853
2	s hib·bā·rə·'ām.	bə·yō·wm	'ā·dām,	šə·mām	'et-
3					
4	- they were created in the day	man	them	-	
5	Punc V-Nifal-Inf 3mp Prep-b N-msc N-ms		N-msc 3mp DirObjM		
6					
7	7121	853	1288		
8	way·yiq·rā	'ō·tām,	way·bā·rek		
9					
10	and called	them	and He blessed		
11	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	DirObjM 3mp	Conj-w V-Piel-ConsecImperf-3ms		
12					
13	1254	5347	2145		
14	bə·rā·'ām;	ū·nə·qē·bāh	zā·kār		
15					
16	He created them	and female	male		
17	V-Qal-Perf-3ms 3mp	Conj-w N-fs	N-ms		

But in creation, God said, "Let us make Adam in Our image, after Our likeness." But then it says Adam is them. "Let them have dominion over the world." I'm summing up the passage. So here, He says, "I create Adam—this Adam—in My image." But then He says, "This Adam is them." And Genesis 1:27 tells us that Adam is male and female. The male and the female together are the one Adam. And in Genesis 5:2, it says: "In the day He created them, male and female... He called them and named them Adam." So, the male is called Adam. The female, his wife, is called Adam. And then in Genesis 2:24, it says: "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and cling to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." Now here's the problem. Eve, the female, has her own flesh body. She's a distinct physical being. The male Adam, her husband, has his own physical body. He's a distinct physical being. But it says the two are one. So here, you can have two distinct physical beings, physical persons, still being one. How much more God, who's not limited the way we are? Yep.

49.2 In God's own likeness

Genesis 5:1-2 - This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. (ESV)

49.2.1 Righteousness and holiness

Ephesians 4:24 - and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (ESV)

The new self should be Christ formed in you:

Colossians 3:5-10 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you **must** put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (ESV)

Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (ESV)

Galatians 4:18-19 - It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! (ESV)

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you free." (NASB)

49.3 Created for God's glory

Isaiah 43:6-7 - I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

49.3.1 Man wasn't designed to kill and curse each other

I think that this is a "spiritual law":

Genesis 9:6 - Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. (ESV)

Luke 6:31 - And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. (ESV)

James 3:9 - With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. (ESV)

Matthew 26:52 - Then Jesus said to him, Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. (ESV)

As a redeemed child of God, I believe we must be sanctified into love and holiness:

I John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

Psalms 11:5 - The LORD tests the righteous, but **his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.** (ESV)

Psalms 24:3-4 - Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has **clean hands and a pure heart**, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. (ESV)

Isaiah 11:6-9 - The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. **They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.** (ESV)

49.4 Jesus Christ, Son of God

II Corinthians 4:4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

John 5:26 - For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 5:21 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

John 1:4 - In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. (ESV)

John 1:9 - The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (ESV)

Ephesians 3:9-11 - and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

By him all things were created. Firstborn here does not mean 'created first', but it means pre-eminent and firstborn of the dead:

Colossians 1:15-20 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — **all things were created through him and for him.** And **he is before all things**, and **in him all things hold together.** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

youtube.com: Jesus Is Not Just A Prophet Or A Guru @time: 5 min 50 sec Now, in a natural human birth what's the first part of the body that normally emerges? The head.

And so in this birth out of death, which is the resurrection, the first part of the body to emerge was the head.

And when the head emerges, that's the guarantee that the body's going to follow, see? So He's the head, the firstborn from the dead.

Jesus is before creation:

Colossians 1:17 - And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (ESV)

The prophets spoke of Him:

Exodus 4:22-23 - Then you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, Let my son go that he may serve me. If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son. (ESV)

Psalms 2:7 - I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, You are my Son; today I have begotten you. (ESV)

Isaiah 7:14-15 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. (ESV)

God audibly spoke of Jesus, His Son:

Luke 9:35 - And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him! (ESV)

Jesus also claimed to be Christ, the Son of the Blessed One (**2128. eulogétos**):

Mark 14:61-62 - But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven. (ESV)

When people say "God can't die, so Jesus is not God" the explanation is that Jesus conquered and sat down with His Father Jehovah on His throne, and is the image of God, Father God revealed to us through His Son, and Jesus is the only way to Father God:

Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (ESV)

Thomas saw God in Jesus Christ, or Jesus Christ as God:

John 20:28 - Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! (ESV)

It's very clear that there is some distinction between Father and Son:

John 20:17 - Jesus said to her, Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. (ESV)

But Jesus Christ is our Mediator:

I Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (ESV)

Jesus still refers to Father God as His God:

Revelation of John 3:12 - The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (ESV)

I think this really clears things up a little bit:

Revelation of John 3:21 - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as **I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.** (ESV)

We serve the Most High God, Jehovah and Jesus Christ who He has sent:

I Corinthians 8:5-7 - For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many gods and many lords — yet **for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.** However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. (ESV)

Jesus has defeated death for himself and all who receive eternal life from Him:

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

AMEN!!

That's why we can say that Jesus who is God the Son died and defeated death and sits with His Father who is God the Father, and they are One. We can still say that God doesn't die because Jesus defeated death:

Revelation of John 1:18 - and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. (ESV)

Romans 8:11-13 - **If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,** he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Psalms 16:10 - **For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.** (ESV)

But from the perspective of those currently being sanctified, things may still seem to be rolling out. Jesus, from His perspective, though has already won though and defeated first:

Romans 6:9 - We know that **Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.** (ESV)

Death will be destroyed for all those who abide in Jesus:

I Corinthians 15:26 - The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

By faith I believe that Jesus even from my perspective has defeated death because Jesus will never let me go:

John 6:37-39 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. (ESV)

See this youtube.com: Derek Prince - Jesus Is Not Just A Prophet Or A Guru

Isaiah 43:10 - You are my witnesses, declares the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. **Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.** (ESV)

Colossians 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (ESV)

Jesus is pre-eminent, one with God in the beginning:

John 1:2: He was in the beginning with God.

Being pre-eminent one with God in the beginning, Jesus washes us first. Jesus acts first that we may abide in Him, that our works may abide in Him:

John 13:8-10 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! Jesus said to him, The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Jesus was birthed from God:

Psalms 2:7 - I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, You are my Son; today I have begotten (**3205. yalad**) you.

- 1 Strong's Concordance
- 2 **yalad**: to bear, bring forth, beget
- 3 Original Word:
- 4 Part of Speech: Verb
- 5 Transliteration: **yalad**
- 6 Phonetic Spelling: (yaw-lad')
- 7 Definition: to bear, bring forth, beget
- 8 NAS Exhaustive Concordance
- 9 Word Origin
- 10 a prim. root
- 11 Definition
- 12 to bear, bring forth, beget

Acts 13:33 - this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, You are my Son, today I have begotten you.

God is knowable through revealing Himself through Jesus Christ, His eternal word, even made flesh:

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (ESV)

Hebrews 1:5 - For to which of the angels did God ever say, You are my Son, today I have begotten you? Or again, I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son?

Hebrews 5:5 - So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, You are my Son, today I have begotten you;

I John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

50 The sheepfold

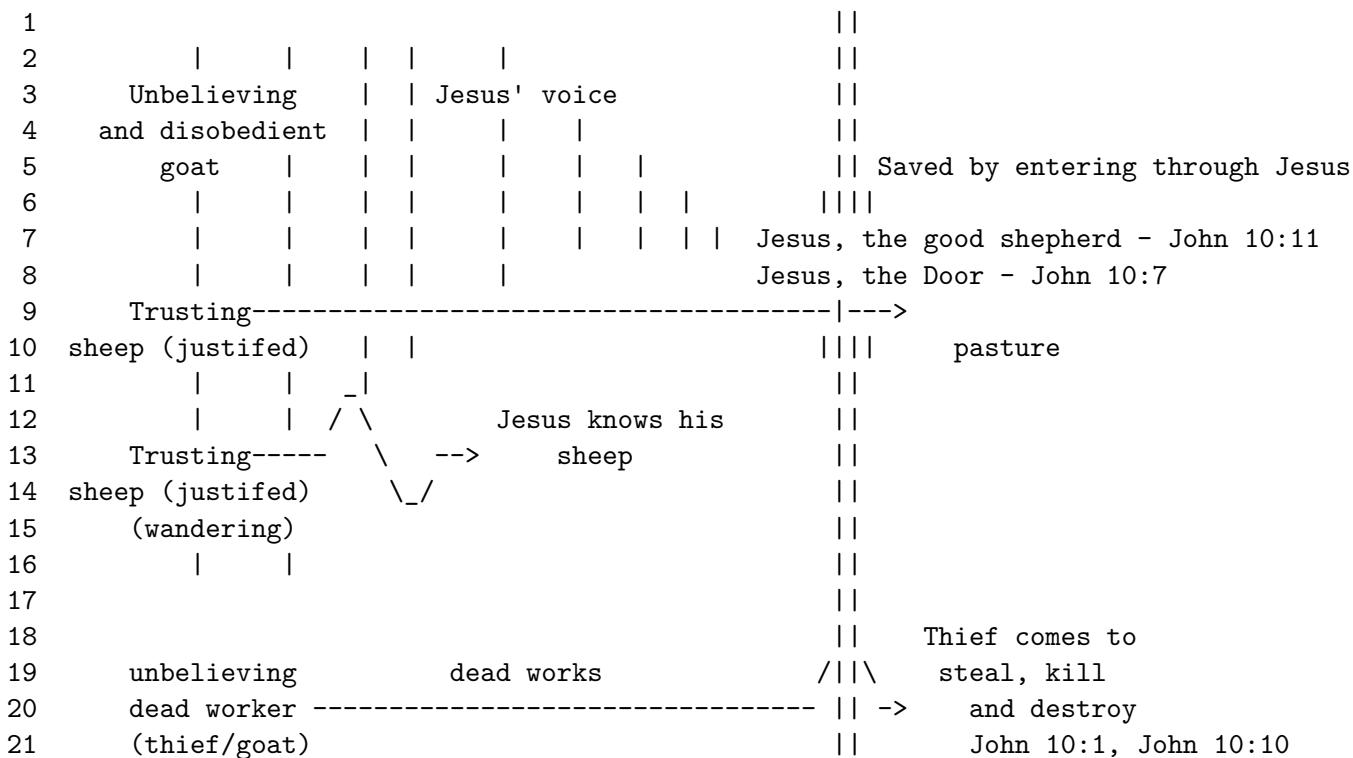
Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (ESV)

When the person starts trusting Jesus they are justified. But they must reach the end to be saved. However, I believe that, so long as Jesus knows that you're trusting in Him, he knows you're His sheep. The question is, when it is considered they have entered the door and received eternal life and been saved? Jesus says a person is saved when they enter the door.

John 10:9 - I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (ESV)

The following verse says they will (when they have eternal life) be unable to be snatched away from His hand, when they are saved.

John 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)



John 10:7 - So Jesus again said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. (ESV)

John 10:1 - Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. (ESV)

John 10:11 - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (ESV)

It's possible to follow Jesus' voice even before having come to perfect knowledge and obedience, but Jesus **knows** His sheep:

John 10:26-29 - but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (ESV)

Trust in God (Trusting in God involves trusting God and trusting God enough to do what He says):

- We should trust in God.
- We should have faith in God.
- We should have faith in Jesus.
- God justifies the one who puts their faith in Jesus, who trusts in Jesus.

Putting faith in Jesus means trusting in Jesus and trusting.

We don't love the Christmas presents more than our parents. Rather, we simply love our parents and they provide the Christmas presents. Likewise, we trust in Jesus and we believe that God justifies the one who trusts in Jesus.

The true believers follow Jesus. They are Jesus' sheep, and they keep His teachings and trust in Him (enough to obey Him penitently):

- trust Jesus
 - youtube.com: I trust in God !
 - even for their justification
- hear Jesus' voice
- love Him
- follow Him (they're being obedient)
- Jesus knows them

I believe that what this says is that at the point Jesus knows you listen to His voice and obey His voice, He counts you as one of His sheep and He will not let you go.

A Psalm of David:

Psalms 23:1-6 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

50.1 The voice of Truth

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

John 15:20 - Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

I John 4:6 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (ESV)

John 8:46-47 - Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

Jesus' friends do what Jesus' commands them. Jesus' friends hear His voice:

John 3:29 - The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. (ESV)

John 15:14 - You are my friends if you do what I command you. (ESV)

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

John 10:5 - A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. (ESV)

I believe that while John 3:33-34 speaks of Jesus Christ there is also truth to the way that if a person is "from God" then that person will speak words that are from God, and I think it makes sense that it would not be very bottlenecked, even for servants of Jesus with Holy Spirit in them. But no messenger is greater than the one who sent him. And so we must have Jesus Christ as our Only [ultimate] Teacher, and if what someone is saying is contrary to what Jesus Christ says then we must go with what Jesus Christ says:

John 3:33-34 - Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true**. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. (ESV)

Matthew 12:34 - You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (ESV)

Luke 6:45 - The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (ESV)

I John 4:6 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (ESV)

John 15:20 - Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If **I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.** Truly, truly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master**, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

50.2 Sheep vs goats: Sheep inherit the kingdom of God, goats do not

I think that Jesus' sheep are goaded by Jesus:

Acts 26:14 - And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads. (ESV)

goad Drive (an animal) with a spiked stick. "the cowboys goaded their cattle across the meadows"

Notes on youtube.com: The Unstoppable Gospel {@desiringGod} My 2 cents. JP at 19 mins mentions Acts 5:32 and makes a point about how people who were presently obedient had received (beforehand, I assume) the Holy Spirit but I still think that God gives His Holy Spirit to those who obey Him and that's still how I read the verse. After all, the call to faith is a call to obedience. We become bondservants of God, abiding in Christ's love, practicing His commandments. I'm convinced when it come to Jesus, obeying Him and trusting in Him are two sides of the same coin. And I think of the John 14 love/obedience verses as goading us into abiding more deeply in Christ's love. I think there is a problem with thinking of obedience as 'works' since there are verses about obedience being in the heart, like faith and love are also based in the heart. Rather, I like to think of it as a believing, obedient, trusting, agape-loving heart. I think this is important because I only want to be goaded by Jesus into deeper love , deeper obedience to Jesus, deeper trust in Jesus, and I think these dual functions of both trusting in Jesus first and foremost and obeying Jesus first and foremost help us narrow down on doing the will of God, and being yoked to Christ alone.

Commandment:

Luke 9:35 - And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him! (ESV)

Faith comes through obedience to the commandment:

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (ESV)

Jesus commands we have faith:

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

God commands faith:

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — (ESV)

Love and obey Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

Following Jesus certainly means repenting from, turning away from practicing sin because Jesus taught that we should. The ones who practice the works of the flesh will never even enter the kingdom:

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will **never enter the kingdom of heaven**. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers **will inherit the kingdom of God**. (ESV)

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God**. (ESV)

Also, obedience means obeying Jesus Christ's commandments on how to love one another! Following Jesus means obeying Jesus' commandments:

Matthew 25:26-46 - But his master answered him, You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For **I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me**. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked

and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying, Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (ESV)

Sheep:

- Sheep are obedient

- They follow Jesus' commandments
- They are servants
- They practice righteousness, as Jesus did
- They repent and turn away from practicing sin
- They forgive and do not bear a grudge against other family in Christ

Goats:

- Goats are disobedient!

To love your neighbour as yourself means forgiving them too, and remember that Jesus forgave us. It also means to not take vengeance (Christ's law includes not rendering evil for evil):

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

51 Marriage

51.1 Marriage is between man and woman

This is the design:

Genesis 2:22-24 - And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (ESV)

Jesus is in agreement with God's design:

Matthew 19:3-9 - And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause? He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. (ESV)

51.1.1 Pursue marriage with those who share our faith and walk in holiness

I Corinthians 7:39 - A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. (ESV)

51.1.2 Gay 'marriage' is not blessed at all by God

So-called 'marriage' between man and man, or woman and woman, is not blessed at all by God.

We've got to be clear on that, but like all other corruption/falsehood, if agreed with and pursued it leads to the abyss.

1Clem 33:5 For thus saith God Let us make man after our image and after our likeness. And God made man; male and female made He them.

1Clem 33:6 So having finished all these things, He praised them and blessed them and said, Increase and multiply.

51.1.3 The law may have come later, but the law still doesn't annul God's former decrees

Galatians 3:17 - This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. (ESV)

51.1.4 Let's be clear: God's law does not endorse gay 'marriage'

Leviticus 18:22 - You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 18:12 - for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you. (ESV)

Leviticus 18:26-29 - But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean), For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. (ESV)

Leviticus 20:13 - If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 22:5 - A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 7:26 - And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction. (ESV)

Jeremiah 44:22 - The Lord could no longer bear your evil deeds and the abominations that you committed. Therefore your land has become a desolation and a waste and a curse, without inhabitant, as it is this day. (ESV)

51.1.5 However, we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ - but that means obeying Jesus

Galatians 3:22-26 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

If we are merciful then we will receive mercy:

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

James 2:13 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Jesus' servants are given mercy by Jesus and they also show mercy to others.

Grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ:

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

51.2 Marriage should not be forbidden

If you know why I'm writing this, there's some people I have already forgiven about stuff to do with me and a certain marriage proposal. But I have forgiven them, and I believe it's best to put Jesus first and to have no idols before or besides Him, and I believe that marriage or a spouse can be an idol, and in my case it was.

Colossians 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in everything he might be preeminent**. (ESV)

Luke 14:28-33 - For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

I know I was pretty messed up at the time and I'm not without any guilt, and my theology was quite warped. While I believe Kingdom marriage could be a thing, I also believe that we should still not allow anything or anyone to be held up as an idol before or alongside Father God, or before or alongside our Saviour and God Jesus Christ:

Luke 14:26 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate (**miseo**) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

The Hebrew has two words for 'helper'. The word which the greek in **John 14** refers to I believe is the Saviour one:

- 1
- 2 savior, deliverer, helper, saviour

But the Hebrew for helper in **Genesis 2:18** is not the 'saviour' but the assistant!:

- 1
- 2 assistant, aide, helper, second

Genesis 2:18 - Then the Lord (H3068 Yhovah) God (H430 'elohiyim) said (H559 'amar), "It is not good (H2896 towb) for the man (H120 'adam) to be alone (H905 bad); I will make (H6213 'asah) him a helper (H5828 'ezer) suitable (H5048 neged) for him."

Jesus saved me from a bad situation and I just want those who come to read this or hear my testimony to come to know the Lord Jesus for themselves.

I forgive everyone.

1 Timothy 4:1-8 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (ESV)

Colossians 1:16 - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. (ESV)

51.2.1 Marriage is good

Proverbs 18:22 - He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD. (ESV)

Romans 12:9 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (ESV)

Romans 14:16 - So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. (ESV)

<2024-07-24 Wed> I forgive everyone. I've been under stress. I'm just seeking peace with God currently and sanctification, and no more spiritual attack / fiery trial / testing. I'm just trying to get to the finish line. I don't know everything. It's above my head. I just feel like a foot soldier in God's army, not the General. I hold no grudges towards anyone, and I'm confident that God will restore me in His own way.

I really think that the fruit of the Spirit is desirable in marriage and for choosing a marriage partner but what's essential is that the love has the characteristics of Christ's love. What I mean is, just because there is joy for the person wanting to propose, that's still not good enough because it's even more important that they are showing Christ's love. If the love produced as the fruit of the Spirit is truly Christ's love then that should comply with Christ's law. What I mean is, we have to bear our burdens and when it comes to spouses we need to be willing to bear theirs too.

We must love our wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. We must love as Christ loved us:

Ephesians 5:25-33 - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (ESV)

But choosing the right person to marry rightly **should** desirably mean exhibiting such things as the fruit of the Spirit, in my opinion because it's much easier to not sin when exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love (G26 **agape**), joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)

But when choosing a wife, we must walk by the Spirit, and that includes bearing one another's burdens. This is also made plainly evident in **Ephesians 5:25-33**:

Galatians 5:15-17 - But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh**, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (ESV)

Regarding making a marriage proposal after getting born-again: The fruit of the Spirit, while lawful, are not enough to justify marrying a person. Also, only Jesus was perfect. Christ's law **must** be followed rather than using the fruit of the Spirit to as an excuse to self-justify; **Bearing your neighbours burdens, and awaiting God to provide**, because God is the justifier, not us. We can't force someone to marry us, but we must die to self and give ourselves up for our wife:

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)

Being led by the spirit involves following Christ's law. To be married to the right person makes it far easier to not sin. Yes, yielding the fruit of the Spirit, but also necessarily walking by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:13-16 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 λογός): You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

If we are led by the spirit (if we're serving Jesus Christ, seeking justification through faith in Jesus Christ) then we are not under the Mosaic law:

Galatians 5:18-21 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Now while we may have faith, hoping, even having a conviction for something which God may not have directly told us about (such as a marriage), ultimately God may approve or deny it:

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (ESV)

We should put our faith in God, and in God's promises:

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, **Have faith in God.**

In the case of the marriage proposal I made, I must hold faith in God which includes obedience to Jesus' command to love one another the way He loved us, and this is reflected in Paul's commandment to love your wife as Christ loves the church, so at the end of the day I have to demonstrate Christ's love which is ultimately obedient and faithful to Jesus:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:12-14 - So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (ESV)

In my situation I had to put faithfulness to Jesus over faithfulness to the girl I wanted to marry and I had to die a death, carrying my cross, and to be faithful to Jesus first and foremost, and it was not fun, and it felt like in my case I was led to kill my Isaac on the altar. I'm a little bit confused about why I was drawn into this situation, but I believe the reasons will be in part that I was attacked by the enemy after being born-again, but God has been using me as I have confidence before God because I've been keeping Jesus' sayings and commandments. God sees it all. I think God just has been working on me as a disciple in the kingdom:

Luke 14:33 - So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

John 12:24-26 - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

But I know it was painful. But I was tested on relationship idolatry / faithfulness to Jesus. God tested me, actually, like He did with Abraham:

Ephesians 5:25-33 - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (ESV)

I'm a little bit confused at it all, but I will keep following Jesus.

We have the right to take a believing wife, but that doesn't mean whoever we want. It doesn't mean we can't ask someone. I still think we have the right to propose. But we might not be allowed to marry them. That's the right way to understand it, I think.

This verbiage "take along" does sound like "lead about". So what Paul says he might be written more unambiguously as, "Are we not allowed to take around (bring) with us a wife who is a sister in Christ, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?" If that's the way it was meant, then that still implicitly does carry with it the idea that they are allowed to have a wife. But the passage doesn't necessarily speak about merely "becoming married" (i.e. the right to 'become married') but does seem to entail that idea too because if someone has the right to bring along or spend time with their wife then that presupposes that a state of marriage is something someone has the right to be in:

I Corinthians 9:5 - Do we not have the right (G1849 exousian: authority [N-AFS]) to take along (G4013 periagein: to take about [V-PNA], to lead about with oneself) a believing (G79 adelphēn: a sister [N-AFS]. i.e. a sister in Christ) wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? (ESV)

See how it says that a person does not sin by taking a wife, even after they are called. But Paul says for those who marry after they are called there will be worldly troubles. And also, Paul points out that the present form of the world is passing away, so after we are called by God, we should really be anticipating the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:

I Corinthians 7:24-31 - So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short.** From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

And marriage was instituted by God at the dawn of Creation. And anyone who is not God is not permitted to separate a marriage partner. And anyone who defiles the marriage bed would be judged. I would imagine that includes people who defile other people's marriages:

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor **among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

Galatians 3:15 - To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. (ESV)

Matthew 19:4-9 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. (ESV)

A wife is a gift from God:

I Corinthians 7:7 - I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. (ESV)

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (ESV)

For the sake of the Kingdom, we may choose to be single:

Matthew 19:12 - For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.

I Corinthians 7:8-9 - To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

Revelation of John 14:4 - It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,

usccb.cld.bz: Catechism of the Catholic Church - Page 415 All the ordained ministers of the Latin Church, with the exception of permanent deacons, are normally chosen from among men of faith who live a celibate life and who intend to remain celibate "for the sake of the kingdom of heaven." Called to consecrate themselves with undivided heart to the Lord and to "the affairs of the Lord", they give themselves entirely to God and to men. Celibacy is a sign of this new life to the service of which the Church's minister is consecrated; accepted with a joyous heart celibacy radiantly proclaims the Reign of God. In the Eastern Churches a different discipline has been in force for many centuries: while bishops are chosen solely from among celibates, married men can be ordained as deacons and priests. This practice has long been considered legitimate; these priests exercise a fruitful ministry within their communities. Moreover, priestly celibacy is held in great honor in the Eastern Churches and many priests have freely chosen it for the sake of the Kingdom of God. In the East as in the West a man who has already received the sacrament of Holy Orders can no longer marry.

We live in a time where people deny marriage:

I Timothy 4:1-3 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. (ESV)

The asceticism [of denying marriage] has no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh:

Colossians 2:18-23 - Let no one disqualify you, insisting on **asceticism** and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting **self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.** (ESV)

We must keep and accept the precepts of God over the precepts of men:

Mark 7:6-9 - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.** And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (ESV)

This passage is condemning submitting to **worldly / human** precepts and imploring us to submit to God's precepts. It's not condemning God's precepts but imploring us to put to death what is against God's precepts:

Colossians 2:20-23,3:1-6 - If with Christ you **died to the elemental spirits of the world**, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to **human precepts** and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you have been **raised with Christ, seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: The Battle for Sexual Purity

Marriage itself is good. So denying it for reasons of self-made religion / worldly precepts actually causes harm because it's not the truth.

Abraham was 10 years older than Sarah!

Genesis 17:17 - Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child? (ESV)

I feel like I have had very obvious spiritual resistance a lot of the time, for whatever reason. Maybe I've had trouble because in the past I have had trouble with pornography:

Colossians 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

Light and darkness do not gel:

I Corinthians 10:21 - You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. (ESV)

This verbiage "take along" does sound like "lead about". So what Paul says he might be written more unambiguously as, "Are we not allowed to take around (bring) with us a wife who is a sister in Christ, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?" If that's the way it was meant, then that still implicitly does carry with it the idea that they are allowed to have a wife. But the passage doesn't necessarily speak about merely "becoming married" (i.e. the right to 'become married') but does seem to entail that idea too because if someone has the right to bring along or spend time with their wife then that presupposes that a state of marriage is something someone has the right to be in:

I Corinthians 9:5 - Do we not have the right (G1849 *exousian*: authority [N-AFS]) to take along (G4013 *periagein*: to take about [V-PNA], to lead about with oneself) a believing (G79 *adelphēn*: a sister [N-AFS]. i.e. a sister in Christ) wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? (ESV)

II Corinthians 6:14 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (ESV)

This is why light and darkness do not go together because the whole point is to turn away from darkness:

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

Another reason would be that there is resistance to be expected when wanting to live faithfully to God in Christ, and I was **being saved**, and the devil didn't want me to be saved, and wanted to keep me in darkness, and in hopelessness, and not in the freedom of Jesus' Spirit:

II Timothy 3:12 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (ESV)

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (ESV)

I feel like sometimes demon spirits deny relationships that would be good.

For example:

- worldly spirit through a person telling me I need to be financially successful first, or
- a spirit of slander or gossip which keeps me isolated, or a rejection-spirit spreading gossip/slander among people around me, creating social anxiety, making it hard to socialise with people who would be good to talk to, or
- spirits of gossip and slander, fear, disunity, grudges, antichrist, anti-Christ's-love, unforgiveness
 - Being kicked out of churches for following Jesus and obeying Jesus' commandments, for example. We should certainly not withhold people from attending churches especially if they are doing good and wanting to learn from Jesus and follow Jesus. If they're opposing Jesus, that's a different story:

* **III John 1:10-11** - So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

- a spiritual sex attack or a spirit spouse which thinks it's my spouse
 - youtube.com: Prayer Against Spiritual Spouse
 - [<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/spiritual-sex-attackpt-1-rev-chika-ossai-ugbah-ph-d-<](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/spiritual-sex-attackpt-1-rev-chika-ossai-ugbah-ph-d-) Or something like this.

- wicked spirits through other people pressuring me into using AI-fiction to apply for jobs
- dreams at night affirming what I've disaffirmed for the sake of following Jesus and remaining faithful to Jesus
 - **Matthew 24:12-13** - And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)
 - The marriage proposal I made I did in a good conscience. I've reneged on it. A born-again Christian can propose to me if she wants.
- if all of the above spirits start manifesting

And as far as forsaking God's precepts for worldly precepts go, the truth is that while in God's favour, God provides, and we cooperate with God by working, etc.

Psalms 66:18 - If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:21-6:1 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him**, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

But if God doesn't want you to get a job at a particular time, you won't get a job, etc. and that goes for other things such as relationships.

Acts 16:6 - And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been **forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia**. (ESV)

Philippians 4:19 - And my **God will supply every need of yours** according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

God's precept isn't that the rich are the only ones who are allowed to marry. Otherwise robots will be taking human wives before the poor are allowed to marry. I'm a Christian not a transhumanist. We've got to stick to God's precepts and go against the world:

II Timothy 3:12 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (ESV)

John 15:19 - If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (ESV)

We have to obey God. Jesus commandment is to give to the one that asks. If I had to choose between obeying Jesus and holding onto lots of money so I could get a wife, then it is the latter which is actually stealing, and stealing from God:

Matthew 5:42 - Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. (ESV)

This widow gave in **faith**, because she believes God will take care of her even if she gives everything (that's the mindset of faith), so long as it's lawful giving, we can give ourselves away for others out of real love if it's in the truth:

Mark 12:41-44 - And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she **out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.** (ESV)

We are walking by faith, and not sight, and to walk by faith is to actually see clearly, where to not walk in faith is actually to walk in darkness:

II Corinthians 5:7 - for we **walk by faith**, not by sight. (ESV)

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (ESV)

If satan keeps delaying and blocking my relationships until seeking a relationship with someone who would be good for me has become 'socially unacceptable', then only God can save me. Worldly people wont understand.

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (ESV)

The Bible doesn't say that marriage among consenting adults with large age gap is immoral or forbidden [in itself], as far as I understand, although I need to do a more comprehensive Bible study and perhaps pray about it. But thus far I haven't found anything and God hasn't said anything against it to me as far as I know. Gay 'marriage', however, is not blessed at all.

While I agree that lust, and impure motivations disqualify a relationship being seen as Biblically acceptable, there are certain things I think are not intrinsically wrong, such as marriage between consenting adults with an age gap.

Worldly people will always discriminate against people who desire to live according to the Bible, and I don't mean obeying the law by works but by obeying it in faith:

II Timothy 3:12-13 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (ESV)

And worldly people will endorse worldly things like:

- having promiscuous relationships, messing around with age-gaps, and out-of-marriage relationships saying it's ok because it's not a serious relationship, and
- endorsing gay 'marriage', etc. or whatever they can imagine

while worldly people will discriminate against:

- age-gap marriage between consenting adults
- people who are actually obeying God

I have a very similar opinion to John Piper on this I think:

- Can I Marry a Woman Half My Age? | Desiring God

Also, I won't accept accusations or condemnation from the enemy while I'm trying to do the will of God, being obedient to Jesus Christ:

Galatians 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (ESV)

But if you think I'm wrong then please help correct me but please back it up with Scripture because I want to be sanctified by the Truth.

And even if I sin from time to time, especially as a consequence of being in a difficult situation due to persecution, I won't accept accusations or condemnation for that, because I'm [trying to] follow Jesus, and I accept the need for repentance and correction:

Galatians 2:17 - But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! (ESV)

I'm trying to side with Jesus over issues regarding the evil which is still present in the world and "hate the sin, not the sinner", and starting by first taking a look at my own problems but by no means endorsing sinful things even things I consider I do which are sinful, I don't endorse them for myself either:

John 7:6-8 - Jesus said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come. (ESV)

Also, I stress this verse again because if you're obeying God then the Mosaic law isn't meant for others to use it against you to condemn you. Literally, if your heart's in the right place, and you're being obedient to Jesus Christ then it's wrong for people to slap you with the Mosaic law:

Galatians 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (ESV)

1 Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice **homosexuality**, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

Not that I was or am perfect, but I have been following Jesus so I claim to be on Jesus' side. By the grace of God He made me born-again, washed, regenerated and filled with the Holy Spirit in 2022 after I had begun to repent and seek Jesus.

For many years before that I've had what I've felt was unreasonably difficulty with relationships, but it's after I was born-again and actively following Jesus that I was denied my first ever marriage proposal, and it was very obvious to me that what I have been fighting is an antichrist/antirelationship/slander spirit attacking me after I was born-again (only now I could easily see it working through people) and probably long before that, and I feel like the spiritual attack (i.e. spirit spouse, LGBT dreams etc., thrown out of churches) I have received as a fallout for choosing Jesus, and endeavouring to abide by Christ's law, instead of using the documented fact I was born-again as an excuse to plead not-guilty in court, I feel like has damaged me spiritually in ways which I have not experienced before, so I need Jesus to keep washing me as I try to be obedient to Him and be corrected by the Word of God.

Before I was born-again I had in the past believed the lie that I need to have money and assets before I can have a wife but I no longer believe that lie, and I refuse to accept that lie. Jesus Christ is enough qualification for me:

star.net.nz: You are qualified!

We should certainly not withhold people from attending churches especially if they are doing good and wanting to learn from Jesus and follow Jesus. If they're opposing Jesus, that's a different story:

III John 1:10-11 - So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

Being 'philos with (friends with, allured by, attracted to)', money , self, pleasure, rather than ((G3123 mallon: rather [Adv])) being allured by God (wanting to be around God) is bad. But we should avoid those who are attracted to such things rather than/instead of God. We want to be attracted to God, and certainly must be attracted to God more so than by pleasure, money, self, etc. And we are instructed to avoid such people who are drawn to such things in preference to God. We are to avoid enemies of God:

II Timothy 3:1-5 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self (G5367 philautoi: lovers of self [Adj-NMP]), lovers of money (G5366 philargyroi: lovers of money [Adj-NMP]), proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good (G865 aphilagathoi: without love of good [Adj-NMP]), treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure (G5369 philēdonoi: lovers of pleasure [Adj-NMP]) rather than (G3123 mallon: rather [Adv]) lovers of God (G5377 philotheoi: lovers of God [Adj-NMP]), having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (ESV)

James 4:4 - You *adulterous* people! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

The way I chose was based on truth and joy and being at peace. And the fact of the matter is that while I had faith I had joy and peace and could just focus on being productive and working, and when the fruit of the spirit is gone what is left but sadness and depression and filling the void with the wrong stuff. I personally do not think that having love for someone is mutually exclusive from being led by the Spirit, nor from serving Jesus, but that Jesus must be number 1.

Galatians 5:16 - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

Genesis 2:18 - Then the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. (ESV)

Then the devil probably said, "It is not good that man should be allowed to marry the person God made for him, because then he wont feel the need to have any of my false sinful substitutes." But the situation is probably more complicated than that, and I can't see everything and I wasn't perfect so, yeah.

Jesus is perfect though.

I'm not upset with people, but I'm upset that I feel broken and as if I am in a world of lies as a result of following Jesus, and like I had to kill the marriage proposal to put Jesus first, and I'm grieved. I feel like Abraham if he was to actually kill Isaac on the Altar, and God didn't intervene.

I want it to stay in God's court (until I am sanctified and delivered) because I feel like I have tried my best to remain faithful to God, and now I need full deliverance and I want to be completely cleaned and made whole, and instead of being rescued it's been as if satan has kept me in a chokehold and daily I experience these antichrist dreams and visions at night time. Obviously it's spiritual oppression which I am fight against, and that has manifested too with the actual church attacking me:

II Timothy 2:21-22 - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (ESV)

I've been getting pounded with antichrist dreams, voices and prodings during my sleep daily for well over a year, and have often found myself being tested throughout the day and I've been using the Bible to fight back and defend against it and trying to be obedient to Jesus.

It helps when I am pro-active and pray to God before bed asking Him for a good night's rest and also leave prayers and scriptures written down next to or on me when I sleep.

All of that spiritual attack I have received pales in comparison to the depression from having my joy taken from me. I have joy in God though. What really matters is that joy that comes from believing the gospel, having faith in Jesus' blood and maintaining that good conscience with God through repentance from sin, faithfulness to God with our thoughts and actions including with obedience to His precepts.

What I'm experiencing is certainly not the kingdom of God, and the Holy Spirit certainly doesn't steal kill and destroy.

Jesus' sacrifice outside Jerusalem is so that we might be sanctified through His own blood and come into Jerusalem. I still think that there's nothing wrong with bearing the reproach Jesus endured - in fact it's encouraged. I think we bear His reproach in order to be sanctified and then call Jerusalem our home:

Hebrews 13:12-14 - So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (ESV)

I'm going to claim this:

Read ligonier.org: Outside the Camp | Reformed Bible Studies & Devotionals at Ligonier.org | Reformed Bible Studies & Devotionals at Ligonier.org

I Peter 4:12-13 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. (ESV)

Being a disciple of Jesus means bearing His reproach:

John 16:2 - They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. (ESV)

Count the cost:

Luke 14:28,29 - For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, (ESV)

I pray Jesus continues to wash me, and for the grace to be sanctified and for ultimate deliverance from demonic harassment:

Romans 4:7-8 - Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin. (ESV)

I pray that God will not count sin done in my brokenness.

Trusting Him means having faith in Him, obeying, believing in God and having the fear of God, believing, following, yielding to Jesus. Ungodly here means wicked or behaviour not in accordance with the knowledge of God. Only God can justify the ungodly, so that's why by following Him, knowing we can be ungodly, we have the hope of God justifying us:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts** (G4100 pisteuo) him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

This qualifies:

Luke 18:13 - But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! (ESV)

The most important thing in my opinion is that everyone involved comes out healed, delivered, sanctified and wise to salvation, and freed from sin and saved from death, so the key I think is to choose forgiveness and bear our cross. I'm prepared and committed to doing that:

Ecclesiastes 7:2 - It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. (ESV)

This is what I want for myself (I'm concerned about living the Christian life now which involves being a 'living sacrifice' for God, and allowing God to sanctify my mind and body, not 'exchanging the grace of God for a single meal'):

Hebrews 12:16-17 - that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. (ESV)

Jesus has set me free, and there's no condemnation for those who are in Christ, but we should have a response of love for Jesus, and live to serve Jesus, and it's very, very important to embrace sanctification, and to put a stop to willful sin.

desiringgod.org: The High Cost of Sexual Sin | Desiring God I'm trying to explode the doctrine that the battle for obedience is optional because only faith is necessary for salvation. This is very tricky the way words are used here. The battle for obedience is **absolutely necessary** for salvation because it **is** the fight of faith. The **battle for obedience is absolutely necessary for getting to heaven** because **it is** the battle against unbelief. **It is** the fight of faith. There are **not two battles**: one to get yourself saved by a single act of faith, and the other to collect rewards by work. There is only **one battle** - it's the one that gets you started, it's the one that gets you there, and it's the fight of faith not works! Faith is what severs the root of covetousness, misplaced shame, anxiety, lust, envy, and six more before we are done this year. There is one warfare, and it is the warfare of faith.

AMEN!! If only someone had told me this first. We're saved from walking in evil ways that we might repent from sin and the blood of Jesus helps us to do that.

Ephesians 4:17 - Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. (ESV)

It's a serious act of treason when you love other things more than God; When you love something else more than God, and do not obey God, and do not believe God and do not turn from doing the will of satan to doing the will of God:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheō*) the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

We are instructed to do good, and to stop doing evil. We're supposed to repent from doing evil:

Romans 2:5-11 - But because of your hard and **impenitent** heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being **who does evil**, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone **who does good**, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

We must love the light which Jesus has shone into the world, and we must prefer to do good over evil. We must to practice the truth. We must agree with doing good rather than with doing evil:

John 3:19-21 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been **carried out in God**. (ESV)

I also believe that in order to be saved after being born-again for 2 years I do not need to become as skilled a theologian as John Piper, say, in order to be saved from the wrath of God. I only need to obey Jesus. I simply do not need 33 years of experience in the area of theology to be saved from the wrath of God. I only have about 5 months of Bible studying.

We must embrace sanctification, and be slaves of God, obeying God, obeying righteousness:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (ESV)

Romans 6:20-23 - When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But **now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

At the end of sanctification, the age to come and eternal life:

Luke 18:29-30 - And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life. (ESV)

I do believe that now. After receiving the Holy Spirit, we must use the spirit to put sin to death, and stop willfully sinning. Committing sin against our own bodies is very, very unwise:

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

I still hold no grudges, but still going through sanctification, which I guess may be a life-long process. Forgiving everyone is a key to deliverance, according to Derek Prince.

If the spirit spouse stuff is actually related to leftover sin in the body/mind/soul-realm, then I'm this serious at this point with my reasoning, because I'm serious about sanctification, and I'm serious about living:

[youtube.com: Free from Judgment, Fighting Sin, Full Assurance](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfXzvLcOjU)

Romans 7:22-8:2 - For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Matthew 5:29-30 - If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell (1067. geenna). And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:5 - you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

Quote by John Piper "You can't cast one devil out and leave the cravings of your heart empty - seven will return. You must fill your life with God, the glory and excellency of God."

51.2.2 We should not be thieves and robbers

What I mean is we should not steal from God, even when Jesus has made us born-again and baptised in the Holy Spirit, in a situation like the one I faced in court in 2022-2023 we have to remain faithful to Jesus and to sound doctrine, and obediently be corrected by the Word in sanctification.

John 10:1 - Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. (ESV)

Malachi 3:8-10 - Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, How have we robbed you? In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:10 - the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, (ESV)

Titus 1:9 - He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (ESV)

livingproof.co: John 10:10 | What Did Jesus Mean by "Abundant Life"? - Abundant Life

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (ESV)

John 10:1,4,7-9 - Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. So Jesus again said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (ESV)

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV)

51.2.3 I want to get married but continue in sanctification first - that's the conflict - I don't want to bring any ongoing issues into marriage

I want to continue in the process of sanctification, and holiness in body and spirit. But I feel like I'm made for marriage. And I feel like loneliness and isolation have been a cause of problems for me. The conflict is I wouldn't want to be married unless I was feeling totally cleaned up, and have everything under control, and I want to continue being cleaned up for a while:

I Corinthians 7:33-35 - But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, **how to be holy in body and spirit**. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. (ESV)

I Corinthians 9:25-27 - Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (ESV)

51.2.4 Choosing a marriage partner in the Lord Jesus and who loves the Lord Jesus

At this point I just am thankful that Jesus has saved my life, and has been sanctifying me. That's what matters. I kinda want to just develop my relationship with Jesus right now. I desire that for anyone.

Romans 6:4 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in **newness of life**. (ESV)

I somewhat disagree with Mari saying that the book of Proverbs teaches [strictly] earthly wisdom, and not heavenly wisdom because I think there is a lot of heavenly wisdom in there. But I find the rest of this quote helpful.

Quote from Mar Mari Emmanuel Whenever there is a couple coming for marital counseling, I always refer to the Book of Proverbs (King Solomon) chapter 31, verse 10. Book of Proverbs, 31 which is the last chapter, and it's verse 10.

Now the **Book of Proverbs teaches you wisdom on earth, not in heaven**, on earth - teaches you wisdom.

So when you go to Chapter 31:10 of Proverbs King Solomon with the wisdom which he received from God himself he says, "A virtuous woman, who can find?"

And then he continues the same verse and says for her price exceeds the precious pearls or stones. "A virtuous woman who can find?"

And I say this to that couple, "My son and my daughter, this verse, we divide into two parts:

- the first part is for the man,
- and the second part is for the woman.

So my dear son, you are looking for a girl to marry. Look for a girl that is virtuous."

Now what does the word virtuous mean? It literally means "fearing the Lord".

What is fearing the Lord means? Loving the Lord.

When you come looking for a girl in marriage, you better look for the girl that loves Jesus Christ of Nazareth, because the day you find a girl loving the Lord Jesus, don't never fear that girl, she can never be bad to you, because the Lord who is in her heart will teach her to be good and nothing else.

Yes, you look for looks, it's okay to a certain degree, but don't ever focus on the external looks, focus on the internal looks, see first and foremost where is her heart? Is it with the Lord, or is it with the world? If she is with the world, not a good choice.

And how do you find out? The first time you meet that girl, ask her, say, "I go to church, what do you think of that? Will you come with me? If she says, nah, don't pretend you're a saint and you're going to convert her, because there is a very big chance she will convert you and take you away from Christ."

The Book of Proverbs is very clearly full of spiritual wisdom:

Hebrews 12:4-8 - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (ESV)

Proverbs 3:11-12 - My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. (ESV)

- 1 Dear Heavenly Father,
- 2 I ask that everyone who is involved or reading this (without naming names),
- 3 that they entrust themselves to Jesus Christ, place their faith in Jesus
- 4 and stay strong in their faith in Jesus. No matter how anything works out.
- 5 That's my desire that, I do not hurt anyone but that they come to faith in Jesus.
- 6 So I pray that whatever happens, our faith is in Jesus now and ongoingly.
- 7 In Jesus Christ's name I ask,
- 8 AMEN!!

The New Covenant is much better than the first covenant, so I'm sure Jesus is enough to sanctify me completely:

I Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

The obvious thing to do right now when my dreams / visions and circumstances are giving me ambiguous and unclear stuff is to do is just choose Jesus, to not lose faith in Jesus, because keeping faith with Jesus is the most important thing. We're getting married to Jesus after all.

I Corinthians 7:29-31 - This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none**, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. **For the present form of this world is passing away.** (ESV)

John 14:23 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (ESV)

51.2.5 It's extremely important to respect the institution of marriage, and of marriage proposal

I believe that outlawing marriage proposal is very close to outlawing God.

I believe that it should be normalised that Christians should feel **comfortable** proposing or being betrothed without first needing to have a job or own a house.

What I mean by betrothed is being able to express commitment to the person who a person has decided they want to marry:

I Corinthians 7:37-38 - But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better. (ESV)

What I mean by this, is "having a job" or "owning a house" must never become a prerequisite to a Christian to being allowed to marry or at least to being "betrothed" (people should be allowed to propose and given a chance even if they have no assets, and no job).

youtube.com: Why 'I Can't Afford Kids' Misses the Point If you're going to follow Christ you have to turn off the voice of the world. You can't care about what Jesus says and also what the devil says. You can't respect the words of the gospel and also give authority to the words of this world.

Allowing God to determine the question if you're going to have many children or few children... We're not like rabbits where you're going to have 30 children - that's not how it is. That's what the seculars want you to think. That's not the case. Some people can't conceive it all, and then the Lord works a miracle and they have a child and everyone rejoices - if I could tell you how many times I've seen the Lord take a family in my Parish that was told by the doctors it's impossible and then he gives them a child and sometimes two, and sometimes more. It is such a shot of joy into the life of the church and to have to have children and to love them and to accept those responsibilities.

"Having God" is a much better prerequisite.

youtube.com: Christ is Enough - Hillsong Worship | LYRIC VIDEO Christ is enough for me. Everything I need is in You.

We shouldn't fight against God by making Him out to be not enough because God is all we need, and at the start of a marriage, it should really be founded on that type of faith.

Opinionated statements:

Otherwise, at its essence, getting marriage security from a job is essentially encouraging prostitution and divorce. To make a person think they need money or a job before they can marry is to attack their faith. Satan can use money and his servants (anyone who isn't doing the will of God) to control people and manipulate marriage, and would rather see chatbots and robots marrying' human beings, open-marriage, interspecies, whatever, and satan would prefer more and more child trafficking as there is increasing wealth inequality. Following Jesus would increasingly mean not being able to marry because no-one would marry a poor person, even someone who obeyed Jesus command to give their possessions to those in need and follow Him, and I believe that to get marriage security through a job or through material possessions, is an attack against God's design and is faithless to God at its very essence and sets the stage for a divorce when there is a financial crisis because trust must be in God not money, and it's best to establish that trust in God at the very beginning.

Sermon :: youtube.com: The Battle for Sexual Purity And it came out that he was fasting and praying to Satan, and the conversation went on and the discovery was made that what this person was fasting and praying for was the destruction of ministers' marriages.

Now if if you were a Satan worshipper and you wanted to know what to pray to your father in hell, what's his will?

Where would you go to find out? To the Bible because the Bible is True.

The Bible tells you Truly what Satan is about in the world.

And you go to the Bible, and what you find in **1 Corinthians 7** [is] that Satan with all his might is in favor of adultery and against fidelity.

No wonder then that Satan worshippers are making their aim to pray for that sort of thing.

Learn from the scriptures this morning that when you battle sexual temptation you battle Satan, a cosmic power who wants your soul.

Never forget however, in conclusion, that the Son of God came into the world to destroy the works of the devil.

And there is a way to resist, and I close with commanding this to you all, married and single.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 contains a key for what I think is the way out of bondage to the abuses of sexual desire.

Paul says there "this is the will of God, your sanctification, that you abstain from immorality that each one of you knows how to take a wife for himself in holiness and honor, not in passion of lust like the heathens do who do not know God." You see the key one kind of person governs his life by the lust of fleshly passions.

Another person governs his life by holiness and honor.

What's the difference?

Whether you know God or not is the difference.

I mean, **know** God, not *know about* God, **know God**.

Paul said in **Romans 1:28** "since they did not approve to have God in their knowledge, He gave them up to a debased mind and improper conduct." You see the connection?

He said in **Galatians 4:8**, "formerly, when you did not know God you were in bondage to beings that by nature are not gods." In other words, the antidote the liberating force from the bondage of Satan in the area of sexual desire is to know God.

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Job 22:24-26 - **if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God.** (ESV)

Proverbs 7:1-3 - My son, **keep my words** and treasure up my commandments with you; **keep my commandments** and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. (ESV)

Luke 12:15 - And he said to them, Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. (ESV)

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Matthew 6:21 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

51.2.6 Personal testimony thoughts around marriage 'sabotage' or whatever train wreck happened

Journal: <2025-02-27 Thu> I mean, I was needing repentance and correction and proposed immediately after getting born-again. And I just feel like I don't want to be in this world at all. If I don't want to even be here in the world then that doesn't make much sense to marry anybody. I just want to be set free from various ongoing problems and serve God. I've got bigger problems than getting married.

I Corinthians 7:38 - So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better. (ESV)

youtube.com: No, God doesn't "allow it" {@leemalaulau} @time: 1 min 38 sec May that not be true of us today. If it steals, kills or destroys, it's not from your good father. He only brings life. Here's the thing, in order for love to be real it has to be free and unconditional.

That's why free will exists. God didn't create robots. He created humans with the ability to choose. Why? Because love without choice isn't love at all. Love that is forced is what we would call tyranny or rape. Love that has to be bought is what we would call prostitution. And love that has to be earned is now no longer a free gift to receive, it's now a wage that I must work for.

And none of these are agape. Agape love, however, God's love is free and unconditional. And for love to be real it must be freely given with no strings attached.

But freedom means risk. It means the freedom to make bad choices, to reject love or to walk away all together. And God in His love does not control us, He invites us. Influence has to be invited, not imposed, and he gives us the freedom to choose Him or to not choose Him because anything less wouldn't be love at all.

Quickly, on the topic of agape love. God has done a thing for us freely, that is giving Jesus Christ. The sacrifice was made before the offer was received by us. Therefore it was a completely unconditional act of love on God's part.

God has made the "first move":

I John 4:8-10 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

In God's unconditional love He has paid the price for us to be saved from sin and death and hell:

John 3:16 (Interlinear) Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 *agapaó - value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. *monogenēs - unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 *hina - in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 *pisteuo*) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

I John 4:9-12 - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

But we have free will and still need to receive the salvation, and that's why there is still a conditional aspect to this. God, through His word and in sending Jesus (God's Word made flesh) has instructed us in receiving the salvation He has bought:

II Timothy 3:14-15 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Jesus is patient with us as we are saved.

II Peter 3:15 - And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, (ESV)

Watch youtube.com: Work Out What Christ Has Won: The Christian Life as Gift and Duty

Philippians 2:12-16 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have **always obeyed**, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (**G2716 katergazomai**) your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Back from the tangent.

Very sadly, after I made the marriage proposal in 2022 the devil really came at me to:

- Make me think I had to work for salvation after being born-again.
- Make me think I need to "pay" to marry her - which is like a spirit of prostitution or trafficking - the devil would happily attempt to turn marriage into an economy - the devil is like a pimp.

Trusting in Jesus shouldn't be just a means to the end of getting an idol:

I Timothy 6:3-10 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among **people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.** Now **there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.** But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (ESV)

Keeping myself accountable, I've been under horrendous spiritual attack and it hasn't even stopped right up to today <2025-04-17 Thu>. The enemy has continued attacking my mind and my soul, and my sleep, lying to me in dreams, trying to burn-me-out and distract me and pull me away from following Jesus. Daily, I've been brushing up against people in the most confronting way, facing almost ceaseless testing of my faith in Jesus, not wanting to affirm erroneous theology, testing of obedience to Jesus, testing of practicing what I 'preach' (being single-minded

rather than double-tongued), and I'm tired, real tired, and I don't have all the answers. And I just don't hold any grudges to anyone, and I just want it to stop. At the same time I feel like the continued circumstances have resulted in me feeling like I'm spiritual unclean, but I am trusting in Jesus for a righteousness outside of myself, that isn't contingent on whether I am fully sanctified. I can say I believe in and trust in Jesus, and I believe Jesus is perfect and that He is not going to let me perish.

I had thought what has happened is **John 10:10**:a

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (ESV)

For anyone who has some insight into my situation, another possibility is that I was tested by God after being born of the Spirit.

I had attended a Mormon church for the first and only time on (if I recall correctly) what I think was the second day (2 Jan) of 2022, and subsequently born-again of the Spirit on 2 April 2022, I may have encountered some spirits of **bad doctrine**.

But at the end of the day, I don't hold to their doctrine, and also I was seeking Jesus and endeavouring to remain accountable before God and bring my deeds into the light.

According to a Mormon, they believe in polygamy which I think is not God's design, and from a quick internet search I can see their beliefs about becoming gods and goddesses and eternal marriage actually have an interesting parallel **in my testing / divine court** after being born-again of the spirit.

When I said on Facebook something like: "Jesus is my life my truth and my heaven and the girl I love is like a little bit of that.", the Hindu guy who was asking me for financial assistance (I still have the transcripts, and my lawyer also received them) (as I was getting pagan dreams of evading judgement through good works) immediately said on my Facebook post, "Maybe she's god, maybe you're god", as I was staying at the house of a close friend.

I rebuked that comment in Jesus Christ's name because my love was genuine but was not going to allow the devil to continue trying to push me into feeling as though I was rejecting the grace of God by denying the **free gift** of justification by the blood of Jesus Christ by faith in Jesus Christ.

I asked the Hindu guy, "Did you try to put a demon in me?" Instead of saying no, the Hindu guy then said, "But I need you to invent." - and I thought of this verse:

Romans 1:30 - slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, (ESV)

So I then rebuked him in Jesus Christ's name.

The Hindu guy then said, "I'm going back to the sea. I hope to wash up on shore again soon.", and I felt a spirit depart from my body, and he disappeared from Facebook. - totally demonic stuff.

I'm not going to allow the devil to try to frame it as though:

- I had to "pay" for justification
 - But I was actually just obeying Jesus out of obedience - God had simply through His grace granted me repentance to life, to be able to love Him back as a response of Him loving me first
- I wasn't already forgiven
 - But I was a born-again believer with my trust in Jesus Christ, simply being obedient to Jesus out of love for Him, and I believed I was totally forgiven, and without guilt
- I had to "pay" for the girl I proposed to by doing good works
 - the devil is a scumbag and probably wants to institute prostitution in the spiritual realm
 - the devil wants to put a spiritual price tag on getting married
- I was trying to be my own god, which I certainly was not trying to do, but I was interested in getting to know Jesus and "union with Christ"

The devil wanted to make me think I was not forgiven by the one True God already after I was joyfully telling people about being born-again and learning about Jesus, and the devil preyed on my active Fruit of the Holy Spirit desire to marry the girl I loved with a pure heart, and make it look like covetousness / licentiousness / lewdness when it was not - it was basically entirely agape love. I hold to that belief / knowledge.

But the real test is that I couldn't plead not guilty because being obedient to Jesus I have to admit in court that I am not perfect and I am guilty:

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)

It felt like the devil tried to steal my blessings and push me back into sin and bury my testimony of Jesus and tried to push me back into bondage, and into sin, by slamming me with lewd dreams and visions, and isolating me, meanwhile bombarding me with accusations of my past, and I've had to fight extremely hard to get out of the intense condemnation I've faced.

I'm not a perfect person but I've been attacked by pure evil or by what seemed like pure evil. I realise that I'm still going through sanctification, and I hold no grudge. I'm not pointing the blame on the people on the other side of court. They are valued people in God's sight. I was neck-deep in sinful behaviour before I was born-again, and I'm very thankful that Jesus has been covering me and sanctifying me.

But as a result of what's happened in every instance of the chronic and relentless spiritual attack I've received, whether it feels like friendly-fire rebuking fellow Christians, the crucifixion of agape love for someone I wanted to marry, 'feeling' like darkness is my closest friend Psalm 88:18, I have felt so subsequently harassed by demons through people, even my own family members, I have felt defiled even from feeling as though I've been raped by demons for well over a year, it has somewhat stripped me of joy and the enthusiasm for Jesus which I had initially when I was born-again:

- demons trying to bury my testimony of Jesus
- demons trying to paint me as autistic
- demons trying to paint me as a threat
- demons isolating me
- demons touching me at night and putting lewd, antichrist dreams into my head

The spiritual attack I've endured as a baby born-again Christian with barely any Bible knowledge was so inordinate and I'm still asking God to deliver me.

This testimony of what's happened and what's happening will remain in the light for all to see and I hope to be able to report one day that I've been delivered from demonic harassment. I'm continue focusing on studying and putting God's Word into practice.

I find it extremely difficult to believe (but not outside the realm of possibility) that the relationship possibility was not grace, but whatever is the case I am still obligated to obey Jesus, forward on to others love and forgiveness like the love and forgiveness that Jesus has loved me with and deny self (deny selfishness), and be faithful to Jesus:

Luke 14:27 - Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

The escalating circumstances got to the point where I was asked what my plea would be about a week before easter, and I did not want to put God to the test by pleading not guilty because I know Jesus would be ever present with me after I was born-again. I have a strong conviction of the sense of His presence. And in the situations in court, I knew I should be faithful to Jesus.

I had my own meeting with Holy Spirit (maybe) on 3 May which I had confessed Jesus to the spirit, as documented. But I asked, "Are you the Holy Spirit?" They said, "Yes, I'll take a look at you." But that doesn't mean that it was the Holy Spirit.

I John 4:1-4 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not

confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (ESV)

I found out much later that was her birthday and also the exact date of when I pleaded guilty in court a year later.

I'm a trinitarian Christian, I confess (G3670 homologeó) the Nicene creed, I don't believe in polygamy, I believe that marriage should not be idolatry, I believe in being a servant in God's kingdom living as a sacrifice to God, and not hubris in "becoming my own god". I want a real relationship with Jesus by being obedient to Jesus is reality, accountable to God. Jehovah God as my witness:

I John 2:4 - Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

I don't believe in polygamy, in fact I am resolutely against it. I much prefer to believe that God has one person in mind for me, like Eve to Adam, yes, but not as if "in union we would become a god", but rather that we have our own union with Christ first and foremost.

And I don't know about the permanency of marriage either but I do believe that God has all who are in Christ joined together by love and whatever God has in store for us will make earthly marriage look pale by comparison.

I Corinthians 7:29-31 - This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For **the present form of this world is passing away**. (ESV)

Romans 7:2 - Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. (ESV)

Consider that Adam and Eve were in the paradise of God, which is our final destination.

Revelation of John 2:7 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (ESV)

Since what has happened has been a train-wreck - I feel like my marriage prospects have been sabotaged - I currently am praying for God to do a miracle to fix everything, and I know my immediate concern is ongoing sanctification so that is my current focus.

51.2.7 The 3 that testify that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son

Commentary Literally, by means of or through water and blood. This is the most perplexing passage in the Epistle and one of the most perplexing in N. T. A very great variety of interpretations have been suggested.

The testimony that God has borne concerning his Son (I John 5:10) is that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son (I John 5:11), and so we need to have the Son (I John 5:12) and if we are trusting in the name of the Son of God (I John 5:13) then we have confidence that we have eternal life.

I John 5:6 - This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (ESV)

Jesus came by water and blood - each of these testify, and the Spirit also testifies.
It's God testifying:

I John 5:9,11 - If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (ESV)

I'm going to try to answer this. It's God's testimony - God testifying. Jesus is God - Jesus' blood testifies. The Word of God in our hearts is God - God testifies. The Spirit of God testifies.

- the Blood of Jesus
 - **Hebrews 12:24** - and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (ESV)
- the Spirit of God
 - **Mark 1:11** - And a voice came from heaven, You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (ESV)
 - **Romans 1:4** - and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, (ESV)
- the Living Water - the Word of God in our hearts
 - The Word of God in our hearts
 - **Ephesians 5:26** - that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the **washing of water with the word**, (ESV)
 - **John 7:38** - Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (ESV)
 - **Romans 8:15** - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! (ESV)
 - **Galatians 4:6** - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! (ESV)

Mark 1:10-13 - And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. (ESV)

In the Holy Spirit, Jesus spoke the Word of God:

Matthew 4:1,4,7 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. But he answered, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Jesus said to him, Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. (ESV)

I John 5:7-11 - For there are **three that testify**: the **Spirit** and the **water** and the **blood**; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in **the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son**. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (ESV)

Blood speaks:

Hebrews 12:24 - and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (ESV)

Genesis 4:10 - And the LORD said, What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. (ESV)

Jesus right here says He gives water to those who believe/trust/have faith in Him. Rivers of living water, the Spirit of God, bearing witness of Jesus:

John 4:10-14 - Jesus answered her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. The woman said to him, Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock. Jesus said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (ESV)

John 7:38-39 - Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water**. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:22 - and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (ESV)

Romans 8:16-17 - The **Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God**, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him**. (ESV)

John 15:26 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me**. (ESV)

51.2.8 I was learning Christ before I was born-again

We learn Christ, and are taught by Christ (becoming obedient to His teachings and commandments) while we are in Him:

Ephesians 4:20-21 - But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as **the truth is in Jesus**, (ESV)

Therefore, even before I was noticeably "born-again of the water and the Spirit" in 2022, I had begun to try to practice Jesus' commandments in 2020/2021 in an effort to seek God, Jesus must have been already working in me, but I say this to explain how I believe that it might be quite hard to pinpoint the starting point, but we know that it's God's grace through faith (believing, obedient, trusting faith) that it happens, but that doesn't mean believing and obeying Jesus are not important to receive the Holy Spirit, because they are.

While the Scriptures says that we are born of God when we believe (I've been attending church my whole life, and baptised at 16 years old - 15-17), I was born-again/regenerated of the Spirit much later (when I was 35). Does that mean I hadn't truly believed until I was 35? Perhaps in a way. I had became disillusioned with AI in 2021 I began seeking after God, and then I got born-again. The Holy Spirit must have been working in my life before I was born-again of the Spirit in this way. Holy Spirit must have been dwelling **with** me even before He was **in** me:

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will **keep my commandments**. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

Through beginning to have patient endurance and resisting the world, and beginning to follow Jesus, God made me born-again of the Spirit. The faith which overcomes the world involves obedience:

I John 5:4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith.

Sadly, I have been attacked a lot even after being born of God. So this confuses me. I certainly actively avoid sinning, but I have been attacked by the enemy a lot after being regenerated. Spiritual attack does seem to worsen if I sin. And resisting sin as challenging. We're supposed to be choosing to obey Jesus instead of sin, so when temptation happens, we must be choosing to obey Jesus instead of sin:

I John 5:18 - We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

People do still suffer for doing good, for righteousness-sake, but if a person is zealous for doing good then it's normal that people don't seek to harm them:

I Peter 3:12-17 - For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (ESV)

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

We are supposed to practice righteousness, and Jesus did come to redeem us, to make us alive together with Him, to sanctify us, so that we do practice good:

I Peter 3:9-17 - Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (ESV)

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

I affirm the way I learned Christ was through trying hard to be faithful to Jesus in private - seeking glory from God who can see me, even when others can't.

Ephesians 4:18-20 - They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— (ESV)

But the yoke of the Lord Jesus has been extremely difficult.

51.2.9 Genuine belief results a dramatic decoupling with the world out of darkness and out from under the power of Satan

Going from darkness to light and arriving at a genuine understanding in the heart to agree with the truth coincides with a clash of beliefs between you (who has come into the light) and the world (which is still in darkness).

Agape-love can be misplaced. We go from agape-loving (treasuring, valuing) darkness to agape-loving (treasuring, valuing) light:

John 3:16-20 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved (25. *agapaó*) the darkness rather than the light (5457. *phós*) because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. (ESV)

Genuine agape loves the light. The Truth of God is light and is good and is not wicked:

Romans 12:9 - Let love (G26 *agapé*) be genuine (G505 *anupokritos*). Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (ESV)

In order to be faithful to God, you will start acting unpredictably to others who are still in darkness. Firstly, as happened to me, you may tell someone about Jesus for the first time. Also, you will be led amongst people in darkness and make confessions of the truth to combat lies in remaining faithful to God, and obey Jesus' commandments in situations where others in darkness or under the power of Satan may pressure you to not. And people may react in hostile ways. I just think that turning from darkness to light and the power of Satan to God naturally results in decoupling from the world:

John 10:18-21 - No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. Many of them said, He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him? Others said, These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind? (ESV)

Acts 26:24-25 - And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind. But Paul said, I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are **sanctified by faith in me**. (ESV)

51.2.10 Holiness - J.C. Ryle

Holiness:

- The habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture:
 - It is the habit of agreeing in God's judgment, hating what He hates, loving what He loves, and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His Word. He who most entirely agrees with God, he is the most holy man.
- endeavor to shun every known sin and to keep every known commandment.
- strive to be like our Lord Jesus Christ

- follow after meekness, patience, gentleness, patience, kind tempers, government of his tongue. He will bear much, forbear much, overlook much and be slow to talk of standing on his rights
- follow after temperance and self-denial. He will labor to mortify the desires of his body, to crucify his flesh with his affections and lusts, to curb his passions, to restrain his carnal inclinations
- follow after charity and brotherly kindness
- follow after a spirit of mercy and benevolence towards others
- follow after purity of heart. He will dread all filthiness and uncleanness of spirit, and seek to avoid all things that might draw him into it
- follow after the fear of God. I do not mean the fear of a slave, who only works because he is afraid of punishment and would be idle if he did not dread discovery
- follow after humility. He will desire, in lowliness of mind, to esteem all others better than himself
- follow after faithfulness in all the duties and relations in life. He will try, not merely to fill his place as well as others who take no thought for their souls, but even better, because he has higher motives and more help than they
- follow after spiritual-mindedness. He will endeavor to set his affections entirely on things above and to hold things on earth with a very loose hand.

51.2.11 Gay 'marriage' should not be held in equal standing to God's design

Isaiah 6:20 - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

51.3 Workers of the kingdom may take a believing wife

I Corinthians 9:5-9 - Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned?

51.3.1 But for the sake of the Kingdom, they may choose to be single

Matthew 19:12 - For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.

I Corinthians 7:8-9 - To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be afame with passion.

Revelation of John 14:4 - It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,

51.3.2 Being ready for Jesus comes first

Luke 14:20-24 - And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame. And the servant said, Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room. And the master said to the servant, Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.

Matthew 25:1-13 - Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him. Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves. And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

51.4 Marriage should be holy for future sake

God's covenant was given to Noah and his wife and Noah's sons and their wives.

Genesis 6:18 - But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

Genesis 7:7 - And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

Even the animals went into the ark two by two, male with their female:

Genesis 6:19 - And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.

Noah still had a wife, a believing wife, I assume.

Matthew 24:38 - For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

God has to be the lover of our soul.

Quote by Tim Keller If it's not God who's meaning is the source of your meaning, who's affirmation is the source of your self-worth, and who's power is the source of security, you're in bed with something spiritually, something you've given yourself to in realms so deep and so profound that God here is saying, "you are every bit spiritually beholden to it as you are physically beholden. You are every bit spiritually laid out as spread out as vulnerable to it spiritually as you are physically when you're having sex with someone. You're doing the very same thing spiritually that you do in bed with someone physically."

51.4.1 The spiritual marriage belongs to Christ

II Corinthians 11:2-4 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel (G3844 par', contrary to) from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. (ESV)

Notice how II Cor 11:4 uses the greek word **par** which seems to translate to "contrary". OK, so if someone is speaking the same thing as Jesus and the Apostles, then great. But if they are preaching, say, against "repentance from sin" then they are not speaking the same gospel, they're not speaking the same thing as Jesus and the Apostles.

I had considered that marriage should be laser precision close so that nothing is able to cause disunity, but that's actually what God wants us to be like with Him first and foremost.

Marriage should be holy, it should be in the Lord and we are espoused to Christ. And this says that remarriage must be in the Lord:

I Corinthians 7:39 - A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. (ESV)

This was a good sermon on the topic I watched today:

Sermon youtube.com: How Sin Makes Us Addicts - Timothy Keller

Joshua 22:5 - Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to **cling to him** and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul. (ESV)

In all honesty, I think it's valuable that a Christian marriage couple should still seek to cling to each other. It should be very, very close, so that no lawless spirits try to break the unity. Only God can lawfully separate a marriage partner:

Matthew 19:5-6 - and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. (ESV)

Concerning existing marriages, where one person becomes a believer, **the unbelieving spouse is sanctified because of the believing spouse**. So it's not the end of the world having an unbelieving spouse, but what this says is that the unbeliever is **made holy** - they will come to believe:

I Corinthians 7:14 - For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. (ESV)

I Peter 3:1-7 - Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives— when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are **heirs with you of the grace of life**, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (ESV)

51.5 Marriage is still good but so is singleness

I Corinthians 7:37-40 - But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. So then **he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.** A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God. (ESV)

51.6 Spiritual attraction: God must be our spiritual spouse and if it's not God, then it's something else

Sermon youtube.com: How Sin Makes Us Addicts - Timothy Keller

Jeremiah 2:1-8 - The word of the LORD came to me, saying, Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the LORD. Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? They did not say, Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells? And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, Where is the LORD? Those who handle the law did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit. (ESV)

Jeremiah 2:23-32 - How can you say, I am not unclean, I have not gone after the Baals? Look at your way in the valley; know what you have done— a restless young camel running here and there, a wild donkey used to the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind! Who can restrain her lust? None who seek her need weary themselves; in her month they will find her. Keep your feet from going unshod and your throat from thirst. But you said, It is hopeless, for I have loved foreigners, and after them I will go. As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel shall be shamed: they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets, who say to a tree, You are my father, and to a stone, You gave me birth. For they have turned their back to me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they say, Arise and save us! But where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them arise, if they can save you, in your time of trouble; for as many as your cities are your gods, O Judah. Why do you contend with me? You have all transgressed against me, declares the LORD. In vain have I struck your children; they took no correction; your own sword devoured your prophets like a ravening lion. And you, O generation, behold the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness to Israel, or a land of thick darkness? Why then do my people say, We are free, we will come no more to you? Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number. (ESV)

51.7 Covenant marriage is great, but for the Gentiles who turn to God, it's not essentially required to burden them beyond abstaining from sexual immorality

Malachi 2:14 - But you say, Why does he not? Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. (ESV)

Acts 15:19-20 - Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood.

51.8 Marriage in the next age

51.8.1 Incorruptible love to make it into heaven, but not lust

Ephesians 6:24 - Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

I Corinthians 13:8 - Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

51.8.2 There is no lust in the kingdom of God in heaven

II Peter 1:3-4 - seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (NASB)

51.8.3 No-one *marrys* (verb) or is *given in marriage* (verb) in the resurrection. They can't die anymore and are equal to angels

Luke 20:33-36 - In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife. And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age (G165 aion) marry (G1060 gameo) and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage (G1061 gamisko), but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age (G165 aion) and to the resurrection (G386 anastasis) from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (ESV)

This an interesting theory. But I'm not very sure of it right now:

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com): Strive to let everything bodily die within you, and you will rise before the general resurrection
Perhaps drawn from the following verse:

I Corinthians 15:51-58 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

51.8.4 In heaven, people are like angels - imperishable

Mark 12:25 - For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:4 - He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (ESV)

We receive an imperishable reward:

I Corinthians 9:25 - Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (ESV)

I Peter 1:4 - to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (ESV)

Even our bodies will be imperishable:

1 Corinthians 15:4 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:52 - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (ESV)

51.8.5 Jesus is incorruptible

Hebrews 1:3 - And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature (G5287 *hypostasis*), and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Luke 16:17 - But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

1 : 5287 *hypostasis* hoop-os'-tas-is
2
3 from a compound of 5259 and 2476; a setting under (support), i.e.
4 (figuratively) concretely, essence, or abstractly, assurance
5 (objectively or subjectively):--confidence, confident, person,
6 substance.
7 see GREEK for 5259
8 see GREEK for 2476

51.8.6 We are married to Christ

Revelation of John 21:9 - Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Ephesians 5:23-33 - For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

1 Corinthians 15:42 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. (ESV)

Galatians 3:26 - for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Revelation 20:6 - Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. (ESV)

51.8.7 We must present ourselves as virgins to Christ. We must be being sanctified

Matthew 25:1-13 - Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him. Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying, Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves. And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

51.9 Bride of Christ

Revelation of John 21:9 - Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Revelation of John 19:7-9 - Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God. (ESV)

We must espouse ourselves to Christ:

II Corinthians 11:2 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (ESV)

The new Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ:

Revelation of John 21:2 - And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (ESV)

John 3:29 - The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. (ESV)

John the Baptist says that the Christ is the bridegroom:

John 3:28-31 - You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him. The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all.

Jesus reinforces that idea:

Mark 2:18-20 - Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast? And Jesus said to them, Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:9 - Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. (ESV)

Isaiah 54:5 - For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:9-11 - Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (ESV)

Isaiah 62:3-5 - You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Revelation of John 22:17 - The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let the one who hears say, Come. And let the one who is **thirsty** come; let the one who desires take the **water of life without price**. (ESV)

51.10 I do not endorse gay 'marriage' - I consider it to be sin - grave sin, actually

I personally do not endorse gay 'marriage'. When I have in the past, I repent of that.

That is not to say it is not possible to endorse it yourself (and take the consequences of that) but a person is accountable to God for that act of annulling one of His commandments.

Matthew 5:19 - Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

We are also supposed to speak up for the God's Truth. We should affirm sound Christian teaching when it comes to what is sinful. Just because we may not judge others when it comes to something sinful, that doesn't mean that God wont judge us for practicing and affirming something sinful.

Quote from Mari Mari Emmanuel So fear nothing, love everyone, but be firm when it comes to speaking the truth. Truth cannot be compromised. ... The one who is all love, He was sharper than a sword; When it came to holding the Truth, fighting for the Truth, He stood firm, never gave way, never compromised. Now that is love. If you truly love someone, wouldn't you want them to be living in the Truth? If you truly love the person, you will tell them, "This is right... This is wrong..."

In the manner in which I judge, I know I will be judged.

Matthew 7:1-2 - "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you."

So I believe that because I do not / no longer endorse gay 'marriage' for others, I do not endorse it for myself, and I'll be held to that standard.

Leviticus 18:22 - You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (ESV)

However, endorsing gay 'marriage' is not merely breaking commandment, but also it is contrary to the spiritual reality:

Genesis 2:22-24 - And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (ESV)

51.10.1 <2025-07-24 Thu>

I've been thinking today about the LGBT "wedding" stuff today. An LGBT "wedding" is not a true marriage. Marriage is between man and woman. There is a spiritual reality to it. Actually, the whole stuff hurts me. Because I chose to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus during when I was brought into the city court over a marriage proposal to someone just after I was born-again. But after putting on my blog that I would "not judge" two born-again Christians who were gay and got married, and then getting pulled into court over my first ever marriage proposal to someone I truly do agape love, I had to actually resist defending myself in court over this. One reason is because to claim "Not guilty" I felt would affirm what I had said earlier about gay 'marriage'. So the entire thing feels like to me, at the cost of my own marriage prospects, I had to remain faithful to Jesus for the sake of the kingdom, because my actions are a witness to others of the truth of Jesus and I don't want to misrepresent Jesus or the gospel. I don't in any way endorse gay 'marriage' and personally I would not attend a gay wedding. I want to be found blameless in the end regarding what has happened.

Just know that carrying one's cross and remaining faithful to the Lord over matters of holiness will definitely lead to persecution and making sacrifices. It's been hard for me.

I Corinthians 6:1-20 - When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers! Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Yes, I choose to obey the truth, to be sanctified by the truth. I don't want to exchange eternal life for / to instead endorse a sinful lifestyle. I don't want to exchange the inheritance for / to endorse a sinful lifestyle.

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

I don't want to spurn the grace of God. The passover Lamb has been sacrificed and I want to be sanctified (cleaned up, I Thessalonians 4:3-8) into holiness and inherit the kingdom, inherit eternal life.

Also, we're supposed to "judge" other believers inside the church. They are inside the church but people who are unrepentant sinners do receive discipline.

I Corinthians 5:1-13 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

Eternal life requires sanctification:

John 8:35 - The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (ESV)

Going to a gay wedding for me would be like celebrating the anniversary of a divorce, or like celebrating the day someone slept with my wife. Nothing wrong with a pink t-shirt or a tie dye. But men pretending to be woman, woman pretending to be men, etc., that stuff is sinful. Christians if they want to inherit eternal life and the kingdom of God should not be affirming gay 'marriage'.

In confessing and forsaking this stuff, the devil would just attack me with LGBT dreams etc. for example, for a long time. Lost of demonic harassment after resisting this sinful stuff. I just want to be all cleaned up and walking in righteousness. That's what Jesus bought for me with His blood, the ability to be sanctified. I don't want to waste it but I want to receive the sanctification and walk closely with the Lord Jesus in holiness. Amen.

51.11 God's law is still used. It's part of the gospel, and can certainly be used to judge the sinners, including those who are unrepentant from sexual immorality

1 Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice **homosexuality**, enslavers, liars, perjurors, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

51.12 God's law is good. His precepts are good. I don't identify with any of this LGBT stuff, and I am against licentiousness

I'm trying to side with Jesus over issues regarding the evil which is still present in the world and "hate the sin, not the sinner", and starting by first taking a look at my own problems but by no means endorsing sinful things even things I consider I do which are sinful, I don't endorse them for myself either:

John 7:6-8 - Jesus said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

But God is love, not a graceless machine:

I John 3:21 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (ESV)

Confessing Jesus and actually following Christ's law (bearing one another's burdens in the understanding that we've been loved first) is what matters at the day of judgement:

I John 4:15-17 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

But yeah, I still think that actually following God's precepts out of love for God is certainly a good idea:

Psalms 119:49-94 - Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. Zayin This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law. When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O LORD. Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law. Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning. I remember your name in the night, O LORD, and keep your law. This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts. The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words. Heth I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law. At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules. I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts. The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes! You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word. Teth Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. You are good and do good; teach me your statutes. The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts; their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law. It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments. Yodh Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word. I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight. Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged me with falsehood; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts. Let those who fear you turn to me, that they may know your testimonies. May my heart be blameless in your statutes, that I may not be put to shame! My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. Kaph My eyes long for your promise; I ask, When will you comfort me? For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes. How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me? The insolent have dug pitfalls for me; they do not live according to your law. **All your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood;** help me! They have almost made an end of me on earth, but **I have not forsaken your precepts.** In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth. Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Lamedh Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants. If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life. I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts. (ESV)

I have not forsaken your precepts - AMEN!!

51.13 Can gay 'marriage' exist anywhere in the Kingdom of God? It's certainly not generally endorsed, nor should it be normalised or made equal with marriage

I don't know if gay 'marriage' can exist anywhere in the Kingdom of God.

I don't think it should be generally endorsed, especially by Christians.

51.13.1 God still does not endorse practicing homosexuality, nor lust

1 Timothy 1:8-11 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice **homosexuality**, enslavers, liars, perjurors, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. (ESV)

51.13.2 The most weighty matters of the law are justice, mercy, faithfulness, and service

Justice, mercy and faithfulness are **essential** for entering the Kingdom of God. Repentance and holiness are very important for entering the Kingdom of God too. Greed and self-indulgence will stop a person from entering the Kingdom of God:

Matthew 23:23-25 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

When applying the law, justice and mercy and faithfulness are the weightier matters of the law. However, the remainder of the law is not supposed to be neglected either.

51.13.3 Even though the law came later, practicing homosexuality has always been sinful

Genesis 13:13 - Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

Genesis 18:20 - Then the Lord said, Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,

51.13.4 Sexual immorality, sensuality, etc. will really stop people from inheriting the kingdom of God

This is not an exhaustive list:

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

But only the ones who are truly remorseful:

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Flock = Jesus' followers. God **wants** to give Jesus' followers the kingdom, but we have to stop serving sin and repent to serve God through Jesus:

Luke 12:30-32 - For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for **it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.** (ESV)

51.13.5 Faith in Jesus is required - Him paying the price for our sin

I think endorsing LGBT, etc. leads the world progressively closer to the abyss.

Sin made against our own body is really bad for us. This is a warning:

I Corinthians 6:16-20 - Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but **the sexually immoral person sins against his own body**. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

I personally wouldn't endorse any kind of sexual immorality for eternal safety sake, and also because adultery and sexual immorality is sin and very damaging to oneself:

Leviticus 18:22 - You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (ESV)

Yes, it is an issue in the law and in God's design, and gay 'marriage' is not endorsed or blessed by God:

Jude 1:7 - just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued **unnatural desire**, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. (ESV)

I believe there is something to [the amount of] law compliance which alludes to God's common grace, but I think we have to really get our mind away from the flesh and onto the Spirit for multiple reasons:

Matthew 5:14-20 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore **whoever relaxes** one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same **will be called least** in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever does them and teaches them will be called great** in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Romans 13:14 - But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

Romans 8:6-7 - To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (ESV)

I guess where a person is positioned may have a lot to do also with what laws person disagrees with and teaches others to disagree with, or conversely practices and teaches others to comply with, and noone who practices sexual immorality, etc. will inherit the kingdom:

Matthew 7:2 - For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. (ESV)

I currently believe this means that the grace that exists for people who are practicing and teaching pro-LGBT who have faith in Jesus are accountable to God for whatever they disagree with God about, and I think that's really unwise, and I believe they won't *inherit* the kingdom of God and His saints, and I'm not the judge, and I just want to state my position on the issue, and I'm trying to understand what the Bible is saying accurately, and

say I don't myself approve of any sexual immorality, and I'm trying myself to put all sexual immorality to death in my body and my thoughts.

[youtube.com: Paul Washer - Ongoing Sin](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOGzJyfXWUw) @time: 9 min 23 sec

To *enter* the kingdom of God a person's righteousness needs to exceed that of the Pharisees and Scribes in order to enter the Kingdom of God and the weightier matters of the law are justice, mercy and faithfulness.

The person's righteousness, I believe Jesus is talking about in **Matthew 5:20** is in a real way talking about personal holiness. I feel like both the imputed righteousness of Christ and personal holiness are important here. Neither of those are 'good works'. Personal holiness is a lot to do with the result of repentance from sin:

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Of course as we abide in Jesus, serving Jesus, we have His imputed righteousness, but there is also the concept of 'personal righteousness' and I think that has a lot to do with what a person approves of or doesn't approve of, what they practice and what they teach others to practice.

I don't want to judge other people but I want to try to understand these Scriptures accurately and heed the warnings against committing sin. God's grace is meant to lead us to repentance and to love:

Romans 2:2-4 - We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (ESV)

"Straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel" means focusing too much on really small matters of the law while neglecting (or being blind to) the weightier matters:

Matthew 23:23-24 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, **straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!** (ESV)

Also, I think eternal life is for those who:

- a) receive forgiveness from Jesus,
- b) obey Jesus and become a bondservant of God.

51.13.6 Sanctification (turning from sin, etc.) is essential for inheriting the kingdom and eternal life

Romans 6:22 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

This is my current understanding. So most likely it is not tolerated in the kingdom of God.

I 100% believe that anyone who has faith in Jesus Christ can be saved / spared from being condemned to hell, and receive eternal life, but I think repentance from sin and sanctification are quite important for inheriting the Kingdom and indeed from being spared from being given over to our own lusts and from being spared from the wrath of God that comes with that. We trust Jesus and He leads us out of darkness.

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers **will inherit the kingdom of God.** (ESV)

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.** (ESV)

I John 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. (ESV)

Believers (trusters) of Jesus Christ have eternal life and are not condemned:

Romans 10:11 - For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

Trusting Jesus' words we do not come into judgement, but change direction, and instead our destiny is life eternal. We do not come into judgement. Jesus is the judge of that:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word (**191. akouó**) and believes (**4100. pisteuó**) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed (**3327. metabain**) from death to life. (ESV)

I think John 5:24 reads that the one who is trusting the words spoken through Jesus, trusting God, trusting Jesus is holds/posesses eternal life and has passed/is passing/passes from death into life.

2064. erchomai to come, go

3327. metabain to pass over, withdraw, depart

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (KJV)

All who have believed will marvel:

II Thessalonians 1:9-12 - They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be **marveled at among all who have believed**, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may **fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

But faith requires obedience, and salvation requires turning from sin.

And it doesn't excuse them from repentance from sin. But they're accountable for God to it.

I like this guy's explanation youtube.com: How to Repent, explained as a video game

Being cleaned up and set free from sin is **essential** for eternal life.

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Sermon youtube.com: Preparing to Meet God

51.13.7 Practicing homosexuality is very sinful and so locking it in with a covenant is very self-destructive

But justice, mercy and faithfulness are the weightier matters of the law. What I mean to say is that without the sinners themselves showing justice, mercy and faithfulness, gay 'marriage' would be totally unjustifiable.

So, I believe that a person **can** be born-again of the Spirit, calling out to God, while still practicing sinful things, which tend to shake off quickly, but the Spirit leads them to forsake those things and the Holy Spirit cleans us up.

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

And I am led to believe that there is some compulsiveness to the sin of homosexuality. All sin is enslaving, after all. I can only conclude that practicing homosexuality is enslaving. God hands people over to it.

I Corinthians 6:12 - All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:23 - All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. (ESV)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Romans 1:24-32 - Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV)

I'm convinced that people who practice homosexuality, among others who are enslaved to various other sinful practices, will not **inherit** the kingdom of God:

I Corinthians 6:9-20 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

What about entering?

I also believe in the imputed righteousness which guarantees entry into God's Kingdom, and that is by being found in Christ. Being found in Christ qualifies entrance. So if we confess (G3670 homologeó) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, God abides in us and us in God. I confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and Jesus is Lord. I believe I have the right to call God my Father as someone who believes in Jesus Christ, Son of God. I believe God is my Father through Jesus and that Jesus is mediating this relationship for me.

Romans 8:14-23 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (ESV)

We believing on Jesus' name, Jesus Christ Son of God, we have the right to become children of God, and also to love our family in Christ, and to be sanctified and to practice righteousness are also mandatory - both commandments and rights that we have. No-one is allowed to prevent you from obeying God, from obeying Jesus, and we **must** obey God, obey Jesus.

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

We're saved from sin by being placed "in Christ" (justified by Jesus' blood while in Christ) and "brought to God" (sanctified):

Romans 5:9-11 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (ESV)

Judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment:

James 2:13 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (ESV)

James 3:1 - Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. (ESV)

God, please have mercy. I repent from all sexual immorality, and from endorsing it.

John 8:7-11 - And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her. And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and **from now on sin no more.**] (ESV)

51.13.8 Without following Jesus Christ's commandments, gay 'marriage' would never be justifiable

Galatians 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

But we have to speak and act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty:

James 2:10-13 - For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Without acknowledging the truth, and without acknowledging that God's law and design is good, gay 'marriage' would be totally unjustifiable.

51.13.9 People who practice homosexuality can't inherit the kingdom of God. It's an impossibility

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality (**G733 arsenokoitai, G3120 malakos**), nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

youtube.com: DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT ALWAYS SAY—THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN?

For those that say that that homosexuality was 'only wrong for Jews' or 'only wrong in Sodom and Gomorrah' because it was violent or something. They don't realize that God uses highly precise Greek terms that were present in the Greco Roman world.

...

And this word for homosexuals actually are 'arsenokoitai'. You know what that means? Men going to bed with men. That is literally what it means. That is exactly the Greek word. Do you know what this word is? This is a word 'malakos' which means a male prostitute known as the passive member of the relationship. Both of those words are precise words from the culture that every Greco-Roman person knew. They understood those words. And Paul said, "If someone is having any type of sexual relation with anyone they're not married to, if they have elevated anything above God, if they have not been faithful to the covenant partner that they married, if they steal from their employer or the government, if they will do anything to get another dollar, if they are under the influence of substances. If they revile God, blaspheme, it's all equivalent. And all of them will not **inherit** eternal life."

That's eternal life. That's what the kingdom of God is. The kingdom of God is entered by people that come under his rule. And if you come under God's rule, if he becomes your king, your master, your redeemer, your savior, your lord, then his gift to us is eternal life.

Walk in the truth, love one another and do not deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh:

II John 1:4-9 - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love, that we walk according to his commandments**; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (**G3670 homologeo**) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

Firstly, I see gay so-called 'marriage' as being unlawful by God's law - in fact it's against God's law. And what people think is 'freedom' when it comes to sexual and marriage liberty to 'marry' whoever they want is actually

lawlessness. From the perspective of someone striving to maintain a good conscience with God and to live lawfully with respect to God, gay 'marriage' and practicing homosexuality is destructive to one's soul. In other words, it's a type of sin which leads to death and without repenting from it a person could not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 6:19-23 - I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. **When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.** But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:9-12 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. (ESV)

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Also, everyone who continues on hoping in Him purifies themselves as He is pure. It's important to purify ourselves, as we hope in Him. At the end of sanctification is eternal life:

I John 3:1-3 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** (ESV)

I believe those who inherit the kingdom of God need to be sanctified (in genuine agape love and holiness) like the standard that Paul calls deacons to. If married then one husband (male) married to one wife (female):

I Timothy 3:4-13 - He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they **prove themselves blameless.** Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be **the husband of one wife**, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Who is a son of God? Not someone who is enslaved to sin. That's one big tragedy of gay 'marriage'. Man and woman are a unit. It's a spiritual reality. People who are willfully sinning practicing homosexuality can't inherit the kingdom of God. It's impossible.

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Galatians 5:18-24 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (ESV)

Man and woman, husband and wife are a single unit called Adam:

1	1254	3117	120	8034	853
2	s hib·bā·rə·'ām.	bə·yō·wm	'ā·dām,	šə·mām	'et-
3					
4	- they were created in the day	man	them	-	
5	Punc V-Nifal-Inf 3mp Prep-b N-msc N-ms		N-msc 3mp DirObjM		
6					
7	7121	853	1288		
8	way·yiq·rā	'ō·tām,	way·bā·rek		
9					
10	and called	them	and He blessed		
11	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	DirObjM 3mp	Conj-w V-Piel-ConsecImperf-3ms		
12					
13	1254	5347	2145		
14	be·rā·'ām;	ū·nə·qē·bāh	zā·kār		
15					
16	He created them	and female	male		
17	V-Qal-Perf-3ms 3mp	Conj-w N-fs	N-ms		

That is certainly true for two people (1 male and one female) who have been joined together by God. God joins man and woman together, but nowhere is it seen in Scripture that God joins any other combination of independent male and female persons together into a single unit. Also, God's design of this unity involved the creation of Eve from Adam's rib. There is a spiritual reality that is healthy and holy, and is God's design, and there is the homosexuality stuff which is impure, unholy:

Matthew 19:6-9 - So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. (ESV)

It also seems that people are individuals before getting married, and close to rapture, it seems like we become like the angels in heaven, neither marrying or being given in marriage, so the unity of marriage between 1 man and 1 woman, husband and wife seems to be something God has designed for life on earth. It's God's precept in scripture, it's right, it's holy. But homosexuality is 'unholy', 'impure'.

I Corinthians 7:27-31 - Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who

have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

I believe that practicing gay 'marriage' is sinning against the Truth in a way that is very defiling. If God had plans for someone to be single or get married to someone of the opposite sex, then marrying someone of the same sex would be going against God's plan for that person. I think this particular type of sin would affect other people as well. If God had plans for someone to get married to someone of the opposite sex but instead they married a different person who was of the same sex, then I'd say their actions would probably affect very negatively the person who they were supposed to marry.

youtube.com: Freedom from Pn and other habitual sins. Part 1 of 2 {@CWOWI} @time: 1 min 51 sec**

In Genesis 2:17 the Lord had commanded Adam and He said if you eat of the fruit of this tree **in dying you will die**. That's the Hebrew - in dying you will die. And what Christ meant when he told Adam "in dying you will die if you eat" was the fact that if you eat of this you will die spiritually and then you'll die physically. - Paul agrees with this in Romans 5:12 where he said through one man sin came into the world and death through sin. So Genesis 2:17 and Romans 5:12 are in agreement that death came into the world through sin. in dying spiritually, you will die physically.

So, but Satan comes along and says, "Oh, no." And you won't die. God's wrong. You won't die. So, there you have the lie and that preceded the sin.

As a side note With regards to the marriage proposal I had made, I also could not proceed for other reasons. I'm trying to maintain good conscience with God, and abide by Christ's teachings, and acting in faith still means being faithful to Jesus Christ. However graceless I think the situation was, and however much I complain to God over the subsequent tribulation I've been through - (I have been woken up to harassing demonic dreams almost every single day for at least a couple of years now, and the amount of testing [of my faith] I've been through other people is beyond belief) - I haven't changed my decision to renege of that proposal. I've felt like I've become spiritually unclean because of almost ceaseless spiritual attack and the memories grieve me that I just want God to erase my memories. But I have not renegged on my decision to move forward. I want to make that really clear. I want to be sanctified and I want everyone else to be sanctified too and have undefiled grace given to them, as I felt (well, I used to feel) was given to me, undefiled grace. But even today I don't feel entirely spiritually clean. I feel like what I have been through has left deep wounds, spiritual wounds. I don't have any bitterness towards any other person, save maybe to God. And the main reason is because Jesus promised that Holy Spirit would testify of Him and I haven't received that testimony. Rather, I've heard a lot of demons.

When I complain to God I question why He would let me go through stuff like this, but what I want is for Him to open the door for me on the other side in order to walk in my convictions, rather than for me to be bound in a prison of marriage and job denial (for example). I die to self and give my treasure to God, and I expect to hear that testimony of Jesus Christ from the Holy Spirit to my heart. If I don't hear that then I would feel like God has seriously wronged me. If I give up my treasure and I don't receive the treasure of that blessed, promised voice in my heart of the Holy Spirit testifying of Jesus Christ as it says in I John and testifying to my spirit that I am a child of God, then I would feel gravely wronged by God after the steps of faith I've taken in trusting Him and His Word.

I had to put Jesus first because the only sure way to know we are loving other people is if we are keeping Jesus Christ's commandments, or even Father God's commandments for us. And if I didn't then I would be committing sin, and likely my actions would be hurting other people in ways I would not know. But I'd not have a good conscience with God about it. And what is not done in faith is sin.

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

To enter the kingdom, we need to be born of water and the Spirit and have righteousness that exceeds the scribes or pharisees. If a person is found in Christ they may enter the kingdom of God. I believe that, a person

can enter with the imputed righteousness of Christ. But I'm absolutely convinced that being in Christ, we are called to be sanctified and at the end of sanctification receive our inheritance. And without holiness a person cannot inherit the kingdom. People practicing homosexuality cannot inherit the kingdom. I believe that it is an impossibility for a person practicing homosexuality to inherit the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

51.13.10 The slave to sin doesn't remain in God's house forever

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Those who practice sexual impurity which includes homosexuality wont **inherit** the kingdom, nor enter into the New Jerusalem in Heaven - those are for the saints (those who keep God's commandments AND have faith in Jesus).

Galatians 5:18-21 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God**. (ESV)

II Corinthians 11:2 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (ESV)

The new Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ:

Revelation of John 21:2 - And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (ESV)

But can they **enter** the kingdom on earth? I'm not sure.

God is the justifier.

So long as they continue in practicing homosexuality, they wouldn't stay.

They have to be practicing righteousness, through following Jesus Christ - and obeying Jesus' commandments:

I John 3:7 - Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

I don't think God ever endorses people to sin, but has grace for sinners.

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

I don't think it's possible to receive the grace without receiving the truth, because Jesus Christ is the grace and the truth.

Luke 18:13 - But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! (ESV)

Prideful sin definitely doesn't make the cut.

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:5 - Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:49 - Why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom when he has no sense? (ESV)

Isaiah 2:17 - And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. (ESV)

51.13.11 The everlasting covenant if one is in the everlasting covenant, should incite a person's shame for their past sin - not their pride

Ezekiel 16:58-63 - You bear the penalty of your lewdness and your abominations, declares the Lord. For thus says the Lord God: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant, yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you take your sisters, both your elder and your younger, and I give them to you as daughters, but not on account of the covenant with you. I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord, that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I atone for you for all that you have done, declares the Lord God.

51.13.12 The abyss is a thing. And our security is faith in Christ

Romans 10:6-13 - But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down) or Who will descend into the abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess (G3670 homologēsēs, acknowledge, agree) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For **with the heart one believes (G4100 pisteuo) and is justified**, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

But just because Jesus can save us when we have the righteousness based on faith, that doesn't mean we should purposefully sin and go towards the abyss. And we certainly shouldn't teach endorse believers to sin. Believers must go on in the fear of God:

Matthew 18:5-6 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

We want God's will to be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. We also want to do God's will.

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

51.13.13 Grace even for the evildoer

The Revelation of John is for Jesus' servants. I'm going to claim this.

Revelation of John 1:1 - The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

The merciful shall receive mercy.

Revelation of John 22:14-15 - Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the **dogs** and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (ESV)

Proverbs 26:11 - Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats **his folly**.

II Peter 2:21-22 - For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: The **dog** returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.

Here's the grace. I choose to interpret this in this way, and I claim it because I claim to be a servant of Jesus:

Mark 7:27-29 - And he said to her, Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs. But she answered him, Yes, Lord; **yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.** And he said to her, For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.

Isaiah 56:11 - The **dogs** have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all.

Philippians 3:2-3 - Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

It's not of my own interpretation though:

II Peter 1:20-21 - knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

51.13.14 God's original design is male and female union and also the law reflects the spiritual reality

I do not actually know what 'astral projection is'. I just googled for whatever I could find to describe it.

This was something for sure, it was a conversation in my sleep, accompanied by dreams.

The first incident was a blue 'light body' which I have felt up until this day, and after that, I have felt like the 'veil' has been very thin and I have had spiritual experiences, and noticing things spiritually.

This was not brought on by meditation or anything, but it happened 'to' me.
I prayed to God consecrating this part of my life to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
And I also prayed that I would not have any out of body experiences like this.

I saw a dark spot around my rib when I was born-again. What I experienced I believe was the regeneration of my spirit-man:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220402091720/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/astral-projection/>
I believe that God has been raising me up as a son:

Hebrews 2:10 - For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. (ESV)

I think likely my spirit-man was regenerated. I believe that Jesus Christ gave me life - even **Hebrews 2:10** saying that Jesus Father God, for whom and by whom all things exist made Jesus Christ, the founder of my salvation, perfect through suffering shows that Jesus is the founder of my salvation:

I Corinthians 15:45 - Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (ESV)

Galatians 4:6 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! (ESV)

What's interesting to me is that Jesus is the bridegroom of His church:

Hosea 2:19-20 - And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. (ESV)

Read alexiscarucci.com: Jesus is The Bridegroom - Living the Abundant Life

And Adam had a rib taken from him to make Eve:

Genesis 2:22 - And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (ESV)

Being born-again of the Spirit gave me insight, and I believed God was real.
God did it and it was a surprise:

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

A total surprise:

John 3:8 - The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

It gave me insight:

Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

51.13.15 Born of water and the spirit

People were being born according to the Spirit for quite some time before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary but it has been restricted to the children of promise i.e. Abraham's descendants through Isaac:

Galatians 4:28-31 - Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But **just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now**. But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Ezekiel 36:24-27 - I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (ESV)

youtube.com: Nicodemus by Pastor John Piper @time: 4 min 49 sec

51.13.16 The truth is God made them male and female, but handed erroneous, rebellious people over to their lust in impurity

Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 5:2 - Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.

Genesis 6:19 - And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.

Joel 2:27-29 - You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. (ESV)

Matthew 19:4 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, (ESV)

Mark 10:6 - But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. (ESV)

Romans 1:24-32 - Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV)

51.13.17 We have to walk the straight and narrow to reign with Christ

II Timothy 2:11-13 - The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

52 Employment

52.1 Kingdom work is work, but kingdom workers should still seek to carry their own load and accept support only when in need of support

Accepting support is OK when in need, but we should still seek to bear our own load:

II Corinthians 11:7-9 - Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. (ESV)

Jesus wants more kingdom labourers:

Matthew 9:37-38 - Then he said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (ESV)

The Apostles prioritised themselves to focus on prayer and devotion to the ministry of the word over serving at tables, because it was more important for them to focus on the ministry of the word:

Acts 6:2-4 - Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Also Paul says he does indeed have the right to be a burden on others (because, I assume, they have given themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word), but rather he wants to be a good example for others to follow on how a Christian should work.

We should keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the Apostolic tradition:

II Thessalonians 3:3-8 - But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. (ESV)

2 Thessalonians 3:8-10 - nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:12-14 - We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. (ESV)

53 Hearing the gospel progresses to abiding in Christ

I John 2:24 - Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

If what you heard from the beginning abides in you...

- hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Then there's letting the word abide in you
 - Which leads to the following
- Then there's abiding in Jesus - believing and confessing Jesus
 - Which leads to the following
- Then there's forever abiding in Jesus
 - Not able to fall away

The word has to remain.

Mark 4:3-20 - Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold. And he said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear. And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven. And he said to them, Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the **good soil** are the **ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit**, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

Good soil:

- Hears the word
- Accepts the word
- Bears fruit

The word is spoken to us and we must receive it and nurture it and produce fruit:

John 15:3-4 - Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

To bear fruit involves sacrificing this life for the advancement of the kingdom:

John 12:24-25 - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

If your fruit abides then whatever you ask the Father in Jesus' name, He may give you:

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

God takes away fruitless branches:

John 15:2 - Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

We must be fruitful branches, abiding in Jesus:

John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

54 Abiding in Christ

Matthew 23:8 - But you are not to be called rabbi, for **you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.** (ESV)

God is our Father:

Matthew 23:9 - And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 23:29-31 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, saying, **If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets. Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.** (ESV)

God is the Father of our spirits. God makes us born of the spirit:

Hebrews 12:9 - Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? (ESV)

Jesus Christ is our Teacher:

Matthew 23:10 - Neither be called instructors, for **you have one instructor (G2519. kathégétés), the Christ.** (ESV)

2519. kathégétés Definition: Teacher, Leader, Guide. Meaning: a leader, teacher, guide, master.

Jesus Christ is our Lord and Teacher - that means we believe and obey Him:

John 13:13-14 - You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (ESV)

In Christ, it's very important we are taught by Jesus and anyone else who teaches should be teaching Jesus's teachings, and teaching about Jesus. Even people who teach about Jesus are themselves taught by Christ, and should be magnifying Jesus. If we are taught by anyone, we should be asking them about Jesus' teachings. In the Kingdom of God, we are "servants" serving each other willfully and in humbling ourselves to serve, this is not "slavery" but is, rather, loving one-another:

Matthew 23:8-12 - But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. And call no man your **father on earth**, for **you have one Father, who is in heaven**. Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

Jesus has said call no-one on earth your father, for you have "one" Father who is in heaven. Paul taught the teachings of Christ, Christ even teaching others through Paul. Paul received his teaching from Christ and passed it on to others:

Galatians 1:11-12 - For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

"In Christ" we have guides who are brothers, perhaps even "fathers", such as Paul the Apostle, who are really brothers but if their teachings do not abide in Christ's teachings then they are false brethren. If their teachings are true to Jesus' teachings, then it could be said that we are being taught by Jesus through them. Jesus Christ remains our only Teacher, and Father God our only Father. So if we find some contradiction between a Pastor's teaching (such as the person who baptised you, or the Pope) and the teaching of Christ, then we must forsake the false teaching in order to follow Christ's teaching:

I Corinthians 4:15 - For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (ESV)

Galatians 2:3-5 - But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. (ESV)

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

We both practice and observe. We serve God in word and deed:

Matthew 23:2-4 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so **practice and observe** whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. (ESV)

We believe and obey Jesus:

John 3:36 - He who **believes in the Son** has eternal life; but he who does not **obey the Son** will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

God loved us first. We must accept that:

I John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

We must hold to our original confession and not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin:

Hebrews 3:13-14 - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.** (ESV)

We abide in Jesus when He washes us. When the Holy Spirit washes us, the Holy Spirit helps us to put sin to death:

John 13:8 - Peter said to him, You shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. (ESV)

Peter believed/received/obeyed/trusted like a child of God (he cooperated) to let Jesus wash him but it was Jesus doing the work:

John 13:9 - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head! (ESV)

Jesus' servants (people who believe and obey Him) are found **in him**. We know Christ by living in the pattern in which he lived. Jesus' servants are those who have accepted Jesus to wash them, and they ought to then wash one another:

Psalms 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his **servants**; none of those who take refuge **in him** will be condemned. (ESV)

Abiding in Christ, one abides in God.

1 John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 3:23 - and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. (ESV)

Thomas going from unbelief to belief.

John 20:27-28 - Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God!

Jesus helped Thomas believe by giving him a commandment to do. It's implied that Thomas obeyed and arrived at belief:

John 20:29-31 - Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

There's abiding in Christ, and then there is ABIDING FOREVER in Christ, and forever in God.

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but **whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

Ephesians 6:6 - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

I John 2:6 - whoever says he **abides in him** ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

I believe that to abide forever in Christ, one must produce good fruit and be a servant of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Matthew 3:8-10 - Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father, for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

I believe that producing good fruit is necessary for being saved:

- a heart that is turning away from sin
- believing the Gospel and obeying Jesus

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

[youtube.com: What does it mean to be "in Christ"?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWzJyfjwvIY)

54.1 The cost of discipleship involves renouncing everything you have to achieve perfection

When it says 'hate' here, it 'love less' and renounce, which is effectively results in being primarily yoked to Jesus, Jesus becoming our Pearl of Great Price by our choice.

We must value Jesus above all and detach from our old life. Coming after Jesus as His disciple means unfollowing everything else, pretty much, and carrying our cross:

Luke 14:25-33 - Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, If anyone comes to me and does not hate (**miseo**) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you **who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.** (ESV)

I appreciate the Didache's teaching on this because it shows there is an upwards call:

Didache Chapter 6 - See that no one causes you to err from this way of the Teaching, since apart from God it teaches you. For **if you are able to bear the entire yoke of the Lord, you will be perfect; but if you are not able to do this, do what you are able.**

We are perfected (completed), transformed into His image, from one degree of glory to another:

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image **from one degree of glory to another**. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

And also Paul's teaching. Being a disciple of Jesus is an upwards call:

Philippians 3:13-14 - Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

The Pearl of Great Price is Jesus and we want to gain Christ, know Christ and invest our lives for His gospel. In following Jesus, eternal life is still a free gift because as Paul says here, what we give up is worthless compared to knowing Christ:

Philippians 3:7-8 - But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (ESV)

For Jesus' name's sake, basically everyone will disown/hate you for following Jesus, except for Jesus, as you choose Jesus:

Mark 13:13 - And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

Revelation of John 12:11 - And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (ESV)

The ones who are made perfect are the ones who are being sanctified:

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

[youtube.com: counting the cost of following Jesus - romans 6 college ave young adults](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzXyfjwvJYU)

54.2 How Christians agape love

<2025-12-05 Fri> What is not done in faith is sin (Romans 14:23, James 4:17). What is not done in law-abiding agape love is also sin (Matthew 22:36-40, 1 John 3:4). Christians should imitating the love of Jesus Christ, trusting God will take care of them, doing good and refusing to harm others (Ecclesiastes 7:16, Romans 13:10, 1 Peter 4:19, 1 Peter 2:23) according to God's commandments for us (1 John 5:2). God has taught through His word what doing no harm to one's neighbour looks like. We are instructed to share the gospel in the following of and the imitation of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34-36) and the passing on of Jesus' teachings and commandments, discipling others (Matthew 28:18-20).

https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm

https://biblehub.com/greek/agapa_25.htm

https://biblehub.com/greek/agapate_25.htm

<https://biblehub.com/greek/26.htm>

Agape-love can be misplaced. We go from agape-loving (treasuring, valuing) darkness to agape-loving (treasuring, valuing) light:

John 3:16-20 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved (25. agapaó) the darkness rather than the light (5457. phós) because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. (ESV)

Genuine agape loves the light. The Truth of God is light and is good and is not wicked:

Romans 12:9 - Let love (G26 agapé) be genuine (G505 anupokritos). Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (ESV)

Thus so (**Houtōs**) (in this way) did God love (G25 agapaó - *value,treasure*) the world, that He gave His Only-Begotten (G3439. monogenēs - *unique,only begotten*) Son that (G2443 hina - *in order that*) everyone who is trusting/believing (G4100 pisteuo) in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting:

biblehub.com 3-16.htm: John 3:16 Interlinear: for God did so love the world, that His Son – the only begotten – He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during.

54.2.1 Who Christians *must* agape love

- God (Father God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit)
 - https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/matthew/22-37.htm>
 - **Matthew 22:37** - And He said to him You shall love (**25 Agapēseis**) [the] Lord the God of you with all the heart of you and with all the soul of you and with all the mind of you (Interlinear)
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/john/14-23.htm>
- Your spouse
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/ephesians/5-28.htm>
- Others in Christ
 - **Colossians 3:13-14** - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)
 - **I John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

54.2.2 Who Christians are called to agape love:

- All people, even enemies (those who hate you)
 - https://biblehub.com/greek/agapa_25.htm
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/matthew/5-44.htm>

– **Matthew 5:43-48** - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

We should honor and be respectful to everyone. But when we talk about the brotherhood, it means our family in Christ. We **must** love our family in Christ:

- **I Peter 2:17** - Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (ESV)
- **I John 4:19-21** - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

We should do good to all and try to love whoever is our neighbour. We must love our neighbour as ourself. That person could be family in Christ, and if they are then we **must** love them. So we have to endeavour to be blameless/innocent as the good Samaritan was. I am a firm believer that if someone is a confirmed family in Christ who loves Jesus, with the fear of God, someone who is being taught by Jesus, someone who is following Jesus, then we must certainly be prepared to share their burdens and share the world's goods with them, we must not neglect them, but support them. It would be sin to neglect family in Christ knowingly when they needed support. We should be supporting each-other to abide in Christ's teachings. As Jesus Christ said, "Let the children be fed first." What about loving those outside the church? We give grace to others, but not at the expense of our own children/family in Christ's basic needs. We must let our family in Christ "be fed first". OK, so an example: If family in Christ needs employment (they are willing to work, they're trying to do what God wants them to do, but being prevented by their fellow man from living as God would have them), and you as family in Christ have work that they can do, and they have asked you for it, then you must prioritise giving them the work above giving it to someone who is not confirmed family in Christ, otherwise it's sin:

- **Leviticus 19:18** - **You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD. (ESV)
- **Galatians 6:2-6** - **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)
- **I John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)
- Philip, an Evangelist in Brazil - We have to treat every single person that we encounter with the love of God as much as possible. We fall short, we make mistakes, we're not always at our best, but as much as possible. We provide a testimony.
- **Mark 7:27-29** - And he said to her, Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs. But she answered him, Yes, Lord; **yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.** And he said to her, For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.

We should not fear those who kill the body (mankind or Satan):

- **Matthew 10:28** - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (ESV)

- **Revelation of John 2:10** - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)
- **I Corinthians 5:5** - you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)
- **John 12:42** - Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; (ESV)

We should fear God, and hate evil. Even as concerns the gospel, we should be repentant, seeking God's mercy:

- **Luke 23:40** - But the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (ESV)
- **Proverbs 23:17** - Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 14:27** - The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 16:6** - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)
- **Job 1:1** - There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 8:13** - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (ESV)
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13** - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)
- **I Peter 2:17** - Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (ESV)

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

What Christians **must not** agape love:

- https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm

The ruler of this world has been judged:

John 16:11 - concerning judgment, because the ruler (G758 archōn: ruler) of this (G3778 toutou: this) world (G2889 kosmou: world) is judged (G2919 kekritai: has been judged). (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned (G2919 krinetai: is judged V-PIM/P-3S), but whoever does not believe is condemned already (G2919 kekrītai: has been judged V-RIM/P-3S), because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

People who love God would receive Jesus and they wouldn't be idolators and they wouldn't have no agape love for their neighbour and they wouldn't have no love for Jesus Christ:

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

John 16:27 - for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved (**5368. phileó**) me and have believed (**4100. pisteuó**) that I came from God. (ESV)

I "think" what is essentially being said is that what is condemned we are not to agape love, since the world and its ruler are condemned. How to put this.. I think we must separate from God-haters. So if, for example, someone gave an ultimatum that unless you renounce Jesus, unless you stop telling people about Jesus, unless you have all your memories of Jesus erased, unless you burn all those Bibles, unless you steal from someone, or unless you choose to not help that homeless believer in Jesus, then you can't be friends, what are you to do? We of course because we love and treasure Jesus, must choose Jesus, choose to obey Him and choose to be faithful to Jesus instead of being friends with the who person gave the ultimatum. We treasure Jesus, want to be around Him and there are times when we must choose to separate from people who reject Jesus. That's what I think it means to not agape love the world. We must not agape love the world. We must instead agape love Father God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit and those who belong to Jesus Christ.

Basically, an extreme version of II Cor 6:14-18. There is a "letting go" of the "world" (G2889 kosmō). Not a letting go of believers, but the world. Perhaps like "wheat letting go of tares":

II Corinthians 6:14-18 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

A different word is used for land/ground/soil here:

John 17:4 - I glorified you on earth (G3588 tēs: the) (G1093 gēs: earth. land, ground, soil), having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. (ESV)

Agape love must not be for anything of the world:

Personally, when I am reading these passages, I am thinking of "world" as an evil generation but I don't necessarily think of it as distinct from literally the cosmos. So Jesus' disciples are in the world but "not of the world", not of the evil generation, at least no longer.

John 17:6 - I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. (ESV)

John 17:16 - They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (ESV)

The same word for world is used when talking about the Earth. But I don't think it's merely talking about the physical Earth. And to be honest, Romans 1:20 is talking about God's divine nature being perceived in the things that have been made. So when thinking of the word world as it's used, there's definitely a spiritual aspect to think about:

Romans 1:20 - For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (ESV)

The world is created (G2889 kosmō):

John 17:5 - And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (ESV)

The "world" is reconcilable. I think what "reconciliation of the world" is means is that people who are taken from the world who come to abide in Christ are no longer "of the world":

Romans 11:15 - For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? (ESV)

I Corinthians 4:9 (Interlinear)]] I think for - God us - apostles last has exhibited as appointed to death because a spectacle (G2302 theatron) we have become (G1096 egenēthēmen) to the (G3588 tō) world (G2889 kosmō) both (G2532 kai) to angels (G32 angeloi) and (G2532 kai) to men (G444 anthrōpois)

II Peter 3:6-8 does actually connect "world" to the world used for "heavens and Earth", so they're not separate things. But the terms for "heavens and Earth" are not about the people who reside there. When we talk about the "world", it's referring to both an evil generation of people and it's referring to a "heavens and earth" which are to be destroyed:

II Peter 3:6-8 - and that by means of these the world (G2889 kosmos: world) that then (G5119 tote: at that time) existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens (G3772 ouranoi: the heavens) and earth (G1093 gē: earth) that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (ESV)

However it works, there is no escaping the fact that we must stand before the judgement seat of Christ. Even if JW believe they go on residing living on the Earth from age to age, there is still no escaping the judgement seat of Christ, and there is certainly a separation that happens:

Matthew 13:37-43 - He answered, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (ESV)

Matthew 24:31 - And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (ESV)

Personally, I am anticipating rapture, and look forwards to ultimately an **entirely new** heavens and earth where righteousness dwells. I don't want to live in the AI Golden [Calf] Age (which is what I've started calling it). It's not for me:

II Corinthians 5:9-10 - So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (ESV)

We detach from the "world", (Biblical separation. i.e. while there might not be physical distancing, we distance ourselves by applied holy living), but remain in the world as lights:

I Corinthians 7:31 - and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

Philippians 2:15 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (ESV)

Being crucified with Christ, there is a real separation between us and "the world". It's growing as a wheat:

Galatians 6:14 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (ESV)

James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (ESV)

And God takes us to a new heavens and earth where righteousness dwells, like Noah here:

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (ESV)

We die to the "elemental spirits of the world" and are no longer enslaved to the "elementary principles of the world":

Colossians 2:20 - If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— (ESV)

Galatians 4:3 - In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. (ESV)

Agape love is essentially a treasuring, preserving love. We have a real Biblical separation from the world. Like Noah:

I John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (ESV)

I John 4:5 - They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. (ESV)

OK, so people who do not know God wouldn't know the children of God:

I John 3:1 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (ESV)

We've got to love God:

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV)

If a person professing to be a Christian is not bearing the burdens of Christians who have their breastplate of righteousness on (holding a love of the truth in their hearts, striving for obedience to Christ), then they would not be fulfilling the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

I do not think that we are called to bear the burdens of people who hate God, while neglecting bearing the burdens of our own family in Christ. In fact, I think that doing so might incur God's wrath against the unfaithful/disobedient so-called Christian:

II Chronicles 19:2 - But Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD. (ESV)

Those who listen to those who are in Christ are of God. Those who listen to world are of the world.

I John 4:5-6 - They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. **Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.** (ESV)

John 17:14-15 - I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (ESV)

Philippians 2:14-16 - Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

54.2.3 What Christians *must not* agape love

- https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm

Agape love must not be to anything of the world. Hate the sin but not the sinner (**Ezekiel 18:23**). Love people but love truth, and hate falsehood. Agape love without truth is not agape love:

Book timothykeller.com: Counterfeit Gods - Timothy Keller

Sermon youtube.com: Counterfeit Gods - Tim Keller

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:1-3 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (ESV)

Galatians 4:9 - But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

I Corinthians 2:12 - Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (ESV)

There's a lot in the Bible to explain what is the revealed will of God. Continuing on in discerning the will of God we should have a renewed mind. We should obey Jesus:

youtube.com: How Do We Know the Will of God? | John Piper Clip {@desiringGod} The Bible does not tell you which person to marry, or whether to marry. The Bible does not tell you which car to drive, or buy, rent. The Bible doesn't tell you whether to buy a home or not which home to buy. [The] Bible doesn't tell you which brand of orange juice to drink. There are 10,000 decisions you must make that are not explicitly addressed in the Bible so what do you do? If you want to obey the will of command my answer is you must have a renewed mind. That's what the text says.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

We end up thinking in a similar fashion to Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to do the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

Where loving your family in Christ (the children of God) is absolutely mandatory, the same level of commitment to "do good" is not given to those who are in opposition to God:

Psalms 139:19-24 - Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain! Do I not hate (H6962. quwt, loathe) those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (ESV)

Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (ESV)

Mark 9:40 - For the one who is not against us is for us. (ESV)

We're called to still share the Truth of God to the World:

John 3:17 - For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)

John 18:20 - Jesus answered him, I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. (ESV)

John 12:47 - If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. (ESV)

Matthew 13:38-39 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. (ESV)

Matthew 5:14 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (ESV)

Agape-ing things of this world is worldly-mindedness and makes it very difficult to discern the will of God:

Luke 11:43 - Woe to you Pharisees! For you love (**agapate**) the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. (ESV)

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

54.3 The slave to sin doesn't abide forever. Repentance from sin is essential for eternal life

John 8:34-35 - Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Like begets like:

- Like Father,
- like Son (Jesus).
- Like disciple of Jesus / adopted son

John 5:19 - So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. (ESV)

youtube.com: God sees what your going through and he wants you to hear this message

Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:48 - Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

I Peter 1:16 - because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Luke 10:6 - And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.

54.4 Having the Spirit given to us and keeping Jesus' commandments

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

54.5 Eternal life is forever abiding

A person must do the will of God for that.

The will of God is that we have faith in God and faith in Jesus. The work/will of God is that we believe in Him whom He has sent - believing in Jesus - faithing in Jesus. The will of God is that we are bondservants of Christ **from the heart**. The will of God is that we repent from sin. The will of God is that we do good

Eternal salvation is given to those who **obey** Jesus:

Hebrews 5:8-10 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Jesus' sheep follow Jesus:

John 10:27-30 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

Accomplishing the will of God the Father is **food**:

John 4:34-38 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.

II John 1:2 - because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

Jesus' teaching is from Father God. We are supposed to obey Jesus Christ, and that's obeying God:

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

John 7:16 - So Jesus answered them, My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

Jesus says we must do the will of God:

Mark 3:35 - Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.

The will of God must be discerned through testing with a renewed mind:

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that **by testing** you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and **acceptable** and perfect. (ESV)

Loving one another in the Truth is the will of God:

II Corinthians 8:3-5 - For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, **of their own free will**, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and **then by the will of God to us.** (ESV)

Controlling our own body in holiness and honor is the will of God:

I Thessalonians 4:3-5 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; (ESV)

The will of God is that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people:

I Peter 2:15 - For this is the will of God, that by **doing good** you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (ESV)

The will of God is that we should not be materialistic or worldly. We must limit our agape love to God and to other people, especially our family in Christ and not agape love anything of the world:

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

If we get conformed to the world then we won't be able to discern the will of God:

Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,** what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

After doing the will of God, and not shrinking back, we receive what is promised:

Hebrews 10:36-38 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. (ESV)

We must believe in Jesus Christ and follow Jesus Christ's teaching:

John 6:28-40 - Then they said to him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. So they said to him, Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Jesus then said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. They said to him, Sir, give us this bread always. Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

We must accept Jesus, believe in Jesus, believe Jesus, and keep Jesus' words - all of that together is abiding in the light. Jesus didn't drive his points home with the intention of inflicting harm. Rather, He left words that we need to come into agreement with, trust and obey to be saved:

John 12:46-48 - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

Jesus picks us out and purifies us so we are set apart for His own possession who are zealous for good works. Jesus rescues us from the crooked generation:

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

But Jesus doesn't pull us out of the world entirely until later. Here on earth Jesus decouples us from unbelievers, and we become one spirit with Jesus, and we also unyoke ourselves from unbelievers and distance ourselves from unrepentant sinners who claim to be believers, and we are expected to clean ourselves up by obedience to the Truth with God's help, but we still live among sinners of the world until God makes an entirely new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells. So we can't expect God to remove all the sinners from the city in which we live, for example, but we are called to live for the Lord Jesus while we are here, and Jesus brings us together with other believers who forsake their sin and live for righteousness:

II Peter 3:10-14 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:11 - But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

Ephesians 6:6 - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

Book timothykeller.com: Counterfeit Gods - Timothy Keller

Sermon [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com): Counterfeit Gods - Tim Keller

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

I John 2:14 - I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. (ESV)

I John 2:17 - The world (G2889 kosmos) is passing (G3855 parago) away (G3855 parago), and also its lusts (G1939 epithumia); but the one who does (G4160 poieo) the will (G2307 thelema) of God (G2316 theos) **lives (G3306 meno)** forever (G165 aion).

1 : 3306 meno men'-o
2
3 a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or
4 expectancy):--abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain,
5 stand, tarry (for), X thine own.

54.6 Whoever truly believes / has faith in Jesus has eternal life

John 3:33 - Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true**.

John 4:13-14 - Jesus said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him **a spring of water welling up to eternal life**.

A spring which **wells up** to eternal life.

So a person believed and they embark on a relationship with God, leading to eternal life. It wells-up to eternal life. So if they receive the living water then they receive eternal life. When was eternal life received? When the person first truly believed, I guess.

Accomplishing the will of God the Father is **food**.

John 4:34-38 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.

Discern the will of God.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Yes, believing in Jesus is obeying the gospel - but there is so much more to the gospel! Doing the will of God.

Obeying the gospel and having faith in Jesus comes from hearing Jesus' words (his teachings). Sharing the gospel is speak to people what Jesus has spoken and allowing them to trust Jesus' words, and **in trusting Jesus' words we trust in Jesus**:

Romans 10:14-17 - But how are they to **call on him** in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How **beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!** But **they have not all obeyed the gospel**. For Isaiah says, Lord, **who has believed what he has heard from us?** So **faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.** (ESV)

Those that obey Jesus' voice He will give eternal life:

Romans 2:7-8 - to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life**; but for those who are self-seeking and **do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness**, there will be wrath and fury.

54.6.1 Every human being who does evil will receive tribulation and distress. God is fair.

Romans 2:9-11 - There will be tribulation and distress for **every human being who does evil**, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

54.6.2 Human beings were totally at the mercy of God. We needed Jesus to come. We still need Jesus

Romans 3:10-13 - as it is written: None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips.

Psalms 53:1-3 - The fool says in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath. A Maskil of David. God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. (ESV)

54.6.3 Atonement and sanctification, and eternal life in Jesus - righteousness apart from the works of the law

The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ is available for all who believe. It is received by faith, and God is the one who justifies us. We must hold faith in Jesus and seek God's justification. We don't justify ourselves. Faith **continues**. I think it's really important to believe, trust in and obey Jesus since that's what Abraham's faith was like - it was believing, trusting and obedient:

Romans 3:20-26 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that **he might be just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

If followed flawlessly then the law justifies. By faith in Jesus we await the hope of justification by God. Jesus both followed the law flawlessly and fulfilled the law prophetically, and was convicted by sinners. Jesus is our atonement.

Hebrews 9:26 - for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (ESV)

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, (ESV)

Leviticus 17:11 - For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:22 - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

John 1:29 - The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (ESV)

1 John 2:2 - He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (ESV)

In Jesus, there is no sin.

1 John 3:5 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. (ESV)

Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

By His stripes we are healed, and then we live to serve Jesus:

Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (ESV)

Propitiation by Jesus' blood is to be received by faith.

Romans 3:25 - whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (ESV)

1 Corinthians 15:3 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (ESV)

God has enabled us to die to sin and live to righteousness.

1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (ESV)

We are cleaned up by having faith in the truth. Having faith is a continuing process.

We must **both** believe the truth and be sanctified, **and** try to forsake sin (i.e. purify ourselves):

II Thessalonians 2:11-14 - Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through **sanctification by the Spirit** and **belief in the truth**. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

54.7 Abiding in Christ through His name

- Maintaining actual belief in Jesus is the basic requirement which prevents you from being cut off, because the life is in His name.

- Believing on His name

- * Trusts in Jesus

- He is your Saviour in reality - entrusted yourself to Him

Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Believe in, believe with. Trust in.

Having life in Jesus Christ's name by believing and trusting in Jesus Christ - Absolutely. And with obedience to Jesus, He has promised eternal life.

Matthew 16:16 - Simon Peter replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 20:31 - but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (ESV)

Exodus 23:21 - Pay attention to him, and listen to his voice. Don't provoke him, for he will not pardon your disobedience, for my name is in him.

God's name was **in** the angel:

Exodus 23:20-22 - Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. But if you **carefully obey his voice and do all that I say**, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

Believing is just the starting point. This is honestly just the starting point. Obedience is **expected**. Also, Jesus is forgiving, unlike the angel.

Continuing to trust in Jesus as the Messiah, your Saviour, and the Only-begotten Son of God through patient endurance is enough to get saved, I think, but it's not enough to be counted a 'disciple' of Jesus.

And it's 'saved' but 'being saved' at the same time.

One wants to progress from 'believing that' to having Jesus abide inside them.

I think that rejects His commandments but claiming to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is an extremely precarious, and tentative position to be in, and may indicate that the person doesn't **really** believe.

And if a person doesn't believe in reality, then that person probably isn't saved - so they are only lying to themselves that they are saved.

However, if a person trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

Trusting Him means having faith in Him, obeying, believing in God and having the fear of God, believing, following, yielding to Jesus. Ungodly here means wicked or behaviour not in accordance with the knowledge of God. Only God can justify the ungodly, so that's why by following Him, knowing we can be ungodly, we have the hope of God justifying us:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts** (G4100 pisteuo) him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

This qualifies:

Luke 18:13 - But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! (ESV)

54.8 Jesus abiding in *you / me*

It quickly progresses to obeying Jesus, receiving the Spirit.

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, **and he in them**. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

54.9 Loving God and loving Jesus and loving others and abiding in His love

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

I John 5:3-4 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

II John 1:5-6 - And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. (ESV)

54.10 Saint - an imitator of Jesus - keeps the commandments of God and has faith in Jesus

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

We are commanded to walk in the truth, and walking in the truth means we must be speaking the same Jesus Christ, and speaking the same teachings of Jesus Christ, and abiding in the teaching of Christ, and we must love one another walking according to God's commandments for us:

II John 1:4-11 - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. (ESV)

Video youtube.com: Called to Be Saints | Charles Spurgeon | Devotional | Morning & Evening: Daily Readings

Quote by Charles Spurgeon All are "saints" whom God has called by His grace **and sanctified** by His Spirit;

Ephesians 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Revelation of John 12:17 - Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Revelation of John 14:12 - Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Psalms 97:10 - O you who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

54.11 Followers of Jesus - the saints (people who keep God's commandments) judge the world

Matthew 19:16-30 - And behold, a man came up to him, saying, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The young man said to him, All these I have kept. What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Then Peter said in reply, See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have? Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will

sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

I Corinthians 6:2 - Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

54.12 Saints inherit the Kingdom with Jesus

Daniel 7:18 - But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever. (ESV)

Revelation 2:26-28 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give **authority over the nations**, and **he will rule them with a rod of iron**, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, **even as I myself have received authority from my Father**. And I will give him the morning star. (ESV)

54.12.1 Biblical argument for Mary being Queen of Heaven (original reference)

Yesterday was <2025-08-22 Fri> and the memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I was surprised today by a post made online laying out the Scriptural argument for mother Mary being "Queen of Heaven." Since there seems to be a good scriptural basis for it then I think it deserves a spot on my Bible study.

In David's kingdom, the Queen wasn't the wife.

It was the mother. (gebi rah)

I Kings 2:19 - So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for **the king's mother, and she sat on his right**. (ESV)

Psalms 45:6-9 - Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad; daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; **at your right hand stands the queen** in gold of Ophir. (ESV)

If Jesus is the Son of David, His mother sits there. Period.

Isaiah 7:14-16 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. (ESV)

Jesus inherits the throne of David.

Luke 1:32-33 - He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. (ESV)

Matthew even names Mary in the royal genealogy (Matt 1:16-17). Why? Because in the Old Testament, every Davidic king's mother was listed. That's how central her office was.

Luke 1:41-43 - And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that **the mother of my Lord** should come to me? (ESV)

As for the Revelation 12 sign with the woman giving birth, I'm not ready/convinced yet to link Mary as being the woman, but I would say that remains to me an unresolved question.

youtube.com: Charlie Kirk and the blessed Mary #shortsvideo {@Lives-of-the-Saint} But let me first say I think we as Protestants and Ev evangelicals under venerate Mary. She was very important. She was a vessel for our Lord and Savior. I think that we as evangelicals and Protestants, we've overcorrected. We don't talk about Mary enough. We don't venerate her enough. Mary was clearly important to early Christians. There's something there. In fact, I believe one of the ways that we fix toxic feminism in America is Mary is the solution. Have more young ladies be pious, be reverent, to be full of faith, slow to anger, slow to words at times. Mary is a phenomenal example and I think a counter to so much of the toxicity of feminism in the modern era.

54.13 Be humble in this world and serve others of humble circumstances while in this world

James 1:9-11 - But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away. (NASB)

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

John 12:25 - Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

Matthew 25:35-40 - For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

54.13.1 Jesus' friends are those who actually do what Jesus says

We don't transition away from being servants of Jesus when we become friends of Jesus - we still serve and obey Him. Jesus started calling His servants His friends because Jesus had explained to them all He heard from Father God. Jesus' friends still serve Jesus, and they obey Jesus but they also know what Jesus is doing.

John 15:14-15 - You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

54.14 Entering the kingdom of heaven

It's possible while here on earth:

Luke 9:27 - But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they **see the kingdom of God.**

We have to be born-again from above. We should start by trusting and believing Jesus:

John 3:3-12 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus said to him, How can these things be? Jesus answered him, Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. **If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?** (ESV)

We must humble ourselves and have believing, trusting faith in God to enter the kingdom:

Matthew 18:2-6 - And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (ESV)

Boldly following the commandments properly **from the heart** and in reality, believing God exists, exercising faith, walking in faith, trusting in Jesus, repenting from sin, turning to God is a good thing to do. Humbling ourselves takes a chance on God:

I Kings 11:38 - And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, **and I will give Israel to you.**

We must take a chance on God and do what the Bible says we should do to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. If we come under Jesus' Lordship and we are trusting and obedient to Jesus then we will do Father God's will:

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

God wants us to stop having an earthly, carnal mind, and for us to pursue Him and be obedient to Him:

1 Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (ESV)

II Corinthians 6:17 - Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, (ESV)

God wants us to continue in faith with Him, even when things get challenging:

I Peter 2:15 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

Obey the word:

I Peter 2:8 - and A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Jesus is the cornerstone. We must believe in Christ Jesus and obey His words, and let his words abide in us and continue in them.

54.15 Knowing Jesus, knowing God, knowing Jehovah God

To know Jesus and Father God, then you **must** follow His commandments, and they must not be a burden on us, but we follow them with the faith of Abraham.

We want to know Jesus experientially because Jesus has made us His own:

Philippians 3:12 - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, **because Christ Jesus has made me his own.** (ESV)

Knowing God means we know that God loved us first, even loved us as God loved Jesus:

John 17:23 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (ESV)

Knowing God means loving as Jesus loved us:

I John 4:6-7 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

I John 4:8-11 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might **live through him.** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Jesus commanded us to love one another in the way He loved us:

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

We must walk in the manner that he walked:

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to **walk in the same way in which he walked.** (ESV)

I John 5:3-4 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to **know him, if we keep his commandments.** Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

Obeying Jesus is a very serious matter:

II Thessalonians 1:8 - in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on **those who do not know God and on those who do not obey** the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (ESV)

Getting to know Jesus will come to result in you too abiding in the Son and in the Father.

I John 2:24 - Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

My intuition says that walking as Jesus walked and obeying His commandments and believing in the truth produces in us an empathy for Jesus.

Meaning of the word empathy: "understanding and entering into another's feelings"

We can know in part what Jesus experienced by walking in the truth as he walked.

However, I believe keeping Jesus' word and obeying Jesus also leads to communion with Him and with Father God in the Spirit:

Meaning of the word communion: "sharing thoughts and feelings"

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Knowing Jesus Christ and Him crucified means believing the testimony and also knowing Jesus experientially through becoming like Him in His death. Believe God's testimony concerning His Son. Know the testimony:

I Corinthians 2:1-2 - And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to **know** nothing among you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified.** (ESV)

I John 5:10 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. (ESV)

We must follow Jesus Christ's commandments to arrive at the knowledge of God. The devil tries to stop us from doing this:

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

The devil works to stop us Christians from taking every though captive for obedience to Christ. Much of the spiritual attack comes from people to "stop striving to obey Jesus" and to 'rest'. Only the devil dissuade people from obeying Christ:

Luke 8:12 - The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (ESV)

Romans 16:17-20 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Forgive one another in Christ and be obedient, and hold no grudge for those in darkness, but try to be the light of the world to them, show them the love of God and the truth of God. Be obedient to Christ in everything that we are not outwitted by Satan:

II Corinthians 2:5-11 - Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are **obedient in everything**. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (ESV)

Know Jesus experientially:

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the **right to become children of God**, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

Dying to sin an immediate thing and living to Christ, becoming like Jesus in His death is a lifelong (while on this earth) process. Also, starting to live for God is an immediate thing, and to be with God is the long-term thing:

Romans 6:8-10 - Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. (ESV)

John 15:3-12 - Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done

for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (ESV)

54.15.1 Anyone who doesn't abide will be thrown away like a branch and withers. Eventually they will be into the fire (Hell, I assume)

John 15:6 - If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Psalms 37:9-11 - For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land. In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. (ESV)

54.16 His name: Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Luke 1:31-35 - And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. And Mary said to the angel, How will this be, since I am a virgin? And the angel answered her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. (ESV)

Acts 3:16 - And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. (ESV)

Jesus reigns and inherits all things. Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God:

Hebrews 1:1-4 - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed **the heir of all things**, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (ESV)

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess (G1843 exomologeó) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ESV)

John 17:11-12 - And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. (ESV)

54.17 Deeply abiding in Jesus, abiding in Jesus Christ's love, and passing-forward Christ's love

We must receive Jesus:

John 5:42-43 - But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. (ESV)

- Loving Jesus and abiding in His love involves keeping His commandments
 - Love one another as He loved us - the same way, selflessly, forgivingly, mercifully, compassionately
 - Love God faithfully
 - * An indicator is that the world hates you
- Keeping all of Jesus' words, keeping His commandments
 - Ask whatever you wish
- Bear fruit
 - Forgiving others, loving others (charity, etc.)
 - Bringing others to Christ
 - Prove to be a disciple of Jesus

54.17.1 Abiding forever vs abiding - there's a difference

Psalms 125:1 - Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

54.18 The fruit (work) of disciples of Jesus then abides

John 15:2 - Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

54.19 Secure rewards and a guarantee of eternal life for Jesus' disciples

Matthew 19:29 - And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. (ESV)

Luke 14:26-28 If anyone comes to me and does not hate (3404. *miseó*, 3404 *miséō* – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

John 12:25 - Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (ESV)

I'm pretty convinced that what Jesus means by the following is that by giving up earthly treasure in the pursuit of Jesus, heavenly treasure is acquired. I'd say it's likely that the heavenly treasure is simply helping those people. So selling what a person possesses and giving to those in need, though apart from faith in Jesus isn't a "requirement for eternal life", it is a fast track to serving Jesus and getting our heart in heaven and leaning on Jesus, so doing as Jesus said in obedient faith is already starting to follow Jesus and store up heavenly treasure. Seek heavenly reward, not earthly reward. Have a heart seeking reward from God and not from man. Have your heart in heaven, not in earth. We give up our earthly treasure and help other people with it and this becomes heavenly treasure, and we then go after Jesus as our Pearl of Great Price:

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

54.19.1 Eternal life is receiving an eternal name, I think

Isaiah 56:5 - I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. (ESV)

Receiving an eternal name.

Becoming a part of the Truth. Full union with God.

54.20 The work of God, believing in Jesus

John 6:29-40 - Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. So they said to him, Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Jesus then said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. They said to him, Sir, give us this bread always. Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Jesus doesn't cast people out.

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

I think that salvation is a totally free gift and the baseline salvation is trusting in Jesus, because of His finished work done on the cross. But the people that oppose obeying the full gospel of Jesus saying that works oppose grace are very deluded.

We're supposed to do good works of faith by Jesus' power so that Jesus' name is glorified - and those works done in Jesus' power are entirely given by grace to us:

II Thessalonians 1:11-12 - To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every **work of faith** by *his power*, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, *according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (ESV)

But salvation is a gift and God is sovereign to save. That's why it's grace. Saved by grace through faith. I think a person needs **some** faith to be saved, and faith works.

It's God's grace that enables us to be saved through faith. While we are saved exercising obedient, trusting, believing faith, Paul says it was actually God's doing:

Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (ESV)

54.21 We in Christ, Christ in us

[youtube.com: What Does it Mean to be in Christ?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWzJyfXGKjU)

I Corinthians 3:23 - and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. (ESV)

54.21.1 Jesus Christ is in us

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (ESV)

Romans 8:10 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

54.21.2 We are in Christ

Galatians 2:4 - Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— (ESV)

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

It's also written that we must repent from sin that God may be a Father to us:

II Corinthians 6:16-18 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, **and touch no unclean thing**; then **I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me**, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

Repent from sin, turn away from doing evil, and trust in Jesus Christ and do good:

Psalms 37:23-29 - The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand. I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing. Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. (ESV)

Take refuge in Him:

Psalms 37:38-40 - But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off. The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him. (ESV)

Jesus' servants (people who believe and obey Him) are found **in him**. We know Christ by living in the pattern in which he lived. Jesus' servants are those who have accepted Jesus to wash them, and they ought to then wash one another:

Psalms 34:22 - The LORD redeems the life of his **servants**; none of those who take refuge **in him** will be condemned. (ESV)

And they were put in Him by Him:

I Corinthians 1:30 - It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. (engbsb2020eb)

Titus 3:5-7 - he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

54.21.3 Our life is hidden with Christ in God

Colossians 3:3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (ESV)

54.22 Only God the Father could graft people in and out of Christ - but Jesus intercedes for us

A person would have to reject Jesus to be grafted out, I think. Then again, God might still not do that.

We must be perpetually approaching Jesus:

John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (ESV)

youtube.com: John Piper - Saved Forever @time: 17 min 36 sec What do I need in order to be saved forever, and the answer is, I need to **keep drawing near to God through Jesus**.

Therefore, I think that's what he prays.

It says in Hebrews 13:21 that by the blood of the Eternal Covenant this Jesus was raised and through Jesus God is working in you that which is pleasing in his sight.

Through Jesus, God is working what is pleasing in his sight, namely a drawing near to God through Jesus. But if God is working our drawing near to him so that He's stirring up within me and you a desire to draw near to God through Him, what does it mean that he's doing it through Jesus? The answer is Jesus is praying for it.

Luke 22:32 - but **I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail**. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

We are commanded to reject the idols to treasure God first. If we do this then we draw near to God and God draws near to us:

II Corinthians 6:17-18 - Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, and **touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you**, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. (ESV)

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

Psalms 73:25-28 - Whom have I in heaven but you? And **there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, **those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.** But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works. (ESV)

So most importantly, believe in Jesus, and that he has paid the price for your sin with His blood, and continue in relationship with Jesus with Him as your number one agape, Pearl of Great Price.

Have in your heart faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour:

Hebrews 3:12 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Bear fruit for Jesus (be obedient):

John 15:2 - Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (ESV)

Those who do not abide in Jesus are grafted out:

John 15:6 - If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. (ESV)

Yet they can be grafted back in:

Romans 11:23 - And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

The relationship is essential! So take stopping sin seriously, and keep Jesus' words and His commandments, and also bearing fruit for Jesus.

Revelation of John 3:2-3 - Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

John 15:1-14 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Romans 11:15-32 - For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins. As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience (543. apeitheia - willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience), that he may have mercy on all.

Matthew 12:33-37 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (ESV)

Rebellion = disobedience.

1 Samuel 15:23 - For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (ESV)

54.23 The law of Christ

We are still *under* a 'law of faith', but we are not **under** the Mosaic law.

We are under the law/commandment of Christ which is a law of faith, faith in Christ. By faith we obey Christ while submitting to His righteousness.

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

But the Mosaic law still exists.

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

I John 3:4-11 - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the *children of God*, and who are the *children of the devil*: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

54.24 Sharing Jesus' holiness / personal righteousness (fruit of righteousness) - coming *after* faith in Jesus

54.24.1 Have faith in Jesus; Believe in Him, and be obedient to Him, following His teaching

We are innocent because we are being obedient to Jesus:

Matthew 10:16-17 - Behold, I am sending you out as **sheep in the midst of wolves**, so be wise as serpents and **innocent as doves**. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, (ESV)

Philippians 2:15-16 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Remain obedient to Jesus, and do not take vengeance for yourself:

Romans 12:19-20 - Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. (ESV)

Following Jesus' example of being obedient:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:7-8 - In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. (ESV)

54.24.2 The yoke of the Lord Jesus

Firstly, Paul commends going above and even beyond one's means:

II Corinthians 8:3-5 - For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (ESV)

There is an amount of how much a person is following Jesus:
"resisted to the point of shedding your blood."

Hebrews 12:1-11 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the **founder** and **perfecter** of our **faith**, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.** Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may **share his holiness**. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful **fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.

If a person is obedient and doing the will of God then God can use that person's human will and exertion. Jesus was faithful to God. Jesus was obedient to God.

I'm reluctant to use external sources outside of the Bible, but this is also described in the Didache. The Didache's estimated range of dating is 50-120 A.D, according to earlychristianwritings.com.

Didache Chapter 6 - See that no one causes you to err from this way of the Teaching, since apart from God it teaches you. For **if you are able to bear the entire yoke of the Lord, you will be perfect; but if you are not able to do this, do what you are able.**

Matthew 5:47-48 - And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Of course, I believe God doesn't send all His servants to be martyred, but probably uses what amount a person is willing to bear for the Lord Jesus.

Quote from John Piper "We don't kill to spread our kingdom. We die to spread our kingdom." AMEN!!

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Luke 9:23 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

youtube.com: C.S. Lewis - God is guiding our lives to the best path @time: 17 min 54 sec *You will be motivated to follow God's ways with increased passion. Divine love is incomparable and reveals itself in extraordinary ways. Curiously, the closer you get to God, the more intensely you feel love for Him. We love because He first loved us (I John 4:19). This indicates that without a true knowledge of God, loving Him can seem like a challenge. Obedience is an authentic expression of this love.*

I'm still trying to figure out how Jesus' yoke is easy. I guess that if a person denies self daily, and heart is always gentle and lowly, then Jesus' yoke is easy and burden light:

Matthew 11:29-30 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

John 21:18-19 - Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go. (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, *Follow me.* (ESV)

Thanks to Jesus' endurance, His spirit empowers us to live as He lived, and to be conformed to His image. God's strength does not guarantee that we will not suffer as a result of following Jesus. But God gives us the power at the time we need it to endure the suffering:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** (ESV)

I believe that the freedom we have in Christ is for serving Jesus, and we have a heavenly perspective:

Colossians 3:22-25 - Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

54.24.3 The upward call of God in Christ Jesus

Romans 12:11 - Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (ESV)

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal for the prize of **the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** (ESV)

54.25 Personal holiness

Everyone who names the name of the Lord must depart from iniquity:

II Timothy 2:19-22 - But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: The Lord knows those who are his, and, Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity. Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Following Jesus means obeying Jesus:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

John 9:5 - As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Jesus instructed his his disciples to be holy:

Matthew 5:14-20 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore **whoever relaxes** one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same **will be called least** in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever does them and teaches them will be called great** in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

I believe following Jesus includes exercising personal righteousness/holiness.

I believe that God's grace extends to all who put their faith in Jesus and have Jesus' righteousness imputed onto them, the righteousness of faith in Jesus Christ God's Son who has paid through his blood the price for our sin. Imputed righteousness is not a license to sin, and we should seek to have this righteousness by being found by God to have faith in Jesus. It's God who commands and grants this righteousness, so we should sincerely trust God's words through Jesus, obeying Jesus Christ by faith.

Receiving Jesus, we have the 'right', the 'authority' to become children of God, even by receiving Him through the knowledge of His name (**onoma**):

John 1:12 - As many as however received Him He gave to them authority children of God to be to those believing in the name of Him (Interlinear)

OK, so we have the right to call God our Father if believe on Jesus' name. So we should definitely renounce ungodliness, and live holy lives:

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

We are disciplined so that we are not condemned along with the world. The way I read this... we are disciplined so that we may be found in Christ because those in Christ are not condemned. So when is a person found **in Christ**?:

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

Our salvation looks like being cleaned up by His spirit, behaving in a way now reflecting that we have knowledge of God (i.e. godliness), and not worldliness, treasuring God and one another, and letting go of treasuring/valuing worldly things, with hope for eternal life:

Titus 2:11-13 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (ESV)

God's grace trains/has taught us to **renounce ungodliness**, and renounce worldly passions and then live discreetly and righteously and piously in this present age - to repent from sin and practice godly behaviour in the present world, which is full of wickedness as we are in the end times.

Titus 2:11 Has appeared for the grace - of God bringing salvation to all men

Titus 2:12 instructing us that having denied - ungodliness and - worldly passions discreetly and righteously and piously we should live in the present age

Is repentance from sin necessary for salvation? Yes. We renounce the sinful habits and God cleans us up as we obey Him by faith. The liberty that God provides is not being a slave/servant of sin/corruption. God's grace trains us / has taught us to renounce sin, and to live holy lives with holy behaviour in this present age:

II Peter 2:14-20 - Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an **heart they have exercised with covetous practices**; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, **they allure through the lusts of the flesh**, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. **While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption**: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. **For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour** (KJV)

If a person is unrepentant from sin then it is better that their body is destroyed so their spirit may be saved. In the case of the thief on the cross, his body **was** destroyed. If he stayed around, he probably would have renounced ungodliness and pursued holiness:

I Corinthians 5:1-5 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

I affirm more of a Methodist theology regarding imparted righteousness. We cooperate with God rather than resist sanctification.

In Methodist theology, imparted righteousness, is what God does in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit after justification, working in the Christian to enable and empower the process of sanctification (and, in Wesleyan thought, Christian perfection). John Wesley believed that imparted righteousness worked in tandem with imputed righteousness.

Imputed righteousness is important, but we need also personal holiness:

James 1:20-22 - for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:22 - So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Holiness Demanded - Charles Spurgeon Sermon

We must live in holiness. This is practical holiness, the opposite of impurity.

Hebrews 12:14 - Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Jesus wants us to live holy lives and to present us to Him holy and blameless and above reproach:

I Thessalonians 4:1-8 - Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

Colossians 1:19-23 - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (ESV)

Whoever approaches God, must regard Him as Holy:

Exodus 19:22 - Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them. (ESV)

Whoever wishes to see the Lord must be holy:

Hebrews 12:14 - Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (ESV)

Leviticus 21:6 - They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God. For they offer the LORD's food offerings, the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy. (ESV)

Leviticus 10:3 And said Moses to Aaron that [is] what spoke Yahweh saying "By those who come near Me, I must be regarded as Holy and before all the people I must be glorified." So held his peace Aaron. (Interlinear)

Leviticus 10:1-3 - Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent. (NASB)

Leviticus 10:1-3 - Now Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense, and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to His command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died in the presence of the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD meant when He said: 'To those who come near Me I will show My holiness, and in the sight of all the people I will reveal My glory.'" But Aaron remained silent. (engbsb2020eb)

Leviticus 10:1-3 - And the sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, take each his censer, and put in them fire, and put on it perfume, and bring near before Jehovah strange fire, which He hath not commanded them; and fire goeth out from before Jehovah, and consumeth them, and they die before Jehovah. And Moses saith unto Aaron, 'It is that which Jehovah hath spoken, saying, By those drawing near to Me I am sanctified, and in the face of all the people I am honoured;' and Aaron is silent. (YLT)

We must honor God:

I Samuel 2:30 - Therefore the LORD the God of Israel declares: I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever, but now the LORD declares: Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. (ESV)

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:17 - To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Romans 14:6 - The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. (ESV)

Romans 2:23 - You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. (ESV)

In his "Introduction to Romans," Luther stated that saving faith is,

"a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever... Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire!"

AMEN!!

The Lutheran Churches label antinomianism as a heresy.

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antinomianism>

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

We're still under the law of Christ, which means we must forgive and love one another, in the same way that Jesus has loved us.

Romans 6:14 - For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (ESV)

"You Are Not Under Law, but Under Grace" | United Church of God

AMEN!!

I believe one must know that God's law is right:

Romans 7:9-16 - I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. (ESV)

When presented with God's law, we should recognise that the law is right and recognise our transgression, and continue towards sanctification, putting off the old, sinful self.

We are released from the law, and now we serve in the new life of the Spirit:

Romans 7:6-7 - But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit. What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, You shall not covet. (ESV)

We believe in Christ Jesus in order to be justified by faith in Christ:

Galatians 2:16 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (ESV)

So we're not trying to come under the 613 commandments of the Mosaic law, but the precepts such as "do not covet", and "do not commit idolatry", easily seen within the 10 commandments still describe how we should behave.

But we also don't teach people that the 613 commandments of the Mosaic law are annulled. They're not annulled. We're just not under them, because we're under the law of Christ instead:

Matthew 5:17-18 - Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. (ESV)

Heaven and earth have not passed away yet and neither has the Law:

Luke 16:17 - But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. (ESV)

Being led by the spirit involves following Christ's law:

Galatians 5:13-16 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (G3056 logō): You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

If we are led by the spirit (if we're serving Jesus Christ, seeking justification through faith in Jesus Christ) then we are not under the Mosaic law:

Galatians 5:18-21 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God**. (ESV)

So we should still forsake sin and endeavour to stop willfully doing such sinful things in thought and deed, as it is described:

I Timothy 1:9 - understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, (ESV)

I Peter 4:1 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for **whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin**, (ESV)

We're under grace, and we're supposed to not be enslaved to sin, neither are we supposed to be enslaved under the Mosaic law. The Mosaic law isn't a curse to us.

Things like pornography probably attracts evil spirits which hinders finding a relationship, and obviously, we still want to obey God's precepts for our own good:

- youtube.com: Prayers Against Evil Attacks During Sleep - Powerful Prayers Against Bad Dreams and Nightmares @time: 8 min 40 sec

Of course we still need to be sanctified and forsake sin and follow Jesus instead.

Hebrews 12:14,15 - Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; (ESV)

But sin is rather described in such a way:

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

We must instead be led by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-25 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And **those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 3:13 - so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

I consider practicing homosexuality to be erroneous and sinful, and God's original design to be correct.

Matthew 19:4-12 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them **from the beginning made them male and female**, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but **from the beginning it was not so**. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. The disciples said to him, If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry. But he said to them, Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.

Romans 1:26-27 - For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the **due penalty for their error.** (ESV)

And no-one should endorse sinful things. Homosexuality is erroneous. If they do, however, endorse it then I think that inhibits them from approaching God.

54.26 Belief comes before or at the time of receiving *the Holy Spirit* (receiving *the Holy Spirit* comes at the time of or after believing)

I believe that **the Holy Spirit** goes to those who obey God. I believe belief in Jesus comes first.

Acts 2:38 - And Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of **the Holy Spirit.** (ESV)

And that if a person begins to repent and actually seek God then the Holy Spirit will come to you at some point:

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

If you keep Jesus' commandments then the Spirit of Truth will come to you, and help you, and be in you. If we obey Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us, even before He's inside us:

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will **keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,** whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

Belief in Jesus comes first but receiving **the Holy Spirit** and baptism may happen in any order after that. I think this is generally the order of things.

youtube.com: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit | Billy Graham

54.27 God is sovereign to reveal Himself, sovereign to save and sovereign to destroy

Romans 10:20 - Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me. (ESV)

Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

54.28 Just saying a creed doesn't guarantee that a person is saved (I think)

Read gracechurch.org: Lordship Salvation | Grace Community Church

God chooses who is saved, and how they are saved.

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

God justifies.

I Timothy 6:11-16 - But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. **Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Confessing and holding to a creed is working faith though:

Song youtube.com: Petra - Beyond Belief @time: 8 min 49 sec

Hebrews 4:14 - Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession.**

In Hebrews, we are also instructed to "not waver" in our confession. So what we are agreeing with and continuing to agree with certainly does matter. We should keep confessing what we are hoping for and hold fast to that confession and not waver. God is faithful and His promises are trustworthy and we should agree with and be corrected by and keep agreeing with God:

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:1 - Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

II Corinthians 9:13 - By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,

Jesus sees here that though they have little power, they kept His word and did not deny His name. God justifies.

Revelation of John 3:8 - I know your **works**. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have **kept my word and have not denied my name**. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about **patient endurance**, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

54.29 It's the obedient who are justified, not the hearers

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

God keeps us from stumbling along the way:

Jude 1:24-25 - Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

I Peter 2:25 - For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Fulfilling the requirement of the law is required of us by God. God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers (4163. poiétés) of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Delirious? - {Investigate} Live From Farewell Show In London - 2010

54.29.1 These people who were unable to enter the kingdom of heaven performed *dead* works, and never obeyed Jesus

Matthew 7:21-27 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (ESV)

To get to know Jesus, follow His commandments - be obedient to Jesus.

A relationship with Jesus necessitates being *correctable* by Jesus. If we hear Jesus' words and believe Him, and are corrected by Him and sanctified by Him and follow Him and obey Him, then that is great!

54.30 Outside of *the Holy Spirit*, noone can say Jesus is Lord

1 Corinthians 12:3 - Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says Jesus is accursed! and no one can say Jesus is Lord except in **the Holy Spirit**. (ESV)

54.31 Works accompany the true believers

Mark 16:16-17 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; (ESV)

54.32 Those that reject the gospel are not the same as those who haven't heard the gospel

Mark 6:11 - And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.

54.32.1 The following applies to believing Jesus, not to believing that a disciple of Jesus is Jesus

John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. (ESV)

A disciple of Jesus isn't Jesus, but a disciple.

54.32.2 There's more chances to accept Jesus after hearing the gospel and initially rejecting or being unsure

John 4:36-38 - Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.

John 4:34-38 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.

54.32.3 If someone receives the one who Jesus sends, they receive Jesus

John 13:20 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

Matthew 10:40 - "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

Mark 9:37 - "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me."

54.32.4 People always have the choice to believe the gospel

Romans 11:23 - And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

Matthew 21:32 - For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him. (ESV)

Joel 2:12-13 - Yet even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster . (ESV)

54.32.5 I lean towards this interpretation

- People who hear the gospel and ultimately reject it / reject Jesus / choose to not put their trust in Jesus are condemned.
- There's more chances to accept Jesus after hearing the gospel and initially rejecting or being unsure
- Rejecting Jesus in front of others is not good because it's a testimony against them
- Acknowledging Jesus in front of others is very good

John 3:19 - This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. (ESV)

Luke 19:10 - For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

54.32.6 Rejecting Jesus in front of others is not good

Luke 9:26 - For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

I John 2:23 - No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

I John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Matthew 10:32 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,

Matthew 10:33 - but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Luke 12:8 - And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God,

54.32.7 It's *really* important to not reject Jesus through

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

John 8:21-24 - So he said to them again, I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come. So the Jews said, Will he kill himself, since he says, Where I am going, you cannot come? He said to them, You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.

I Peter 3:18-21 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to **death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit**, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because **they formerly did not obey**, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

If this verse suggests that Jesus went to the spirits in prison who had in the days of Noah disobeyed, then we should definitely obey the gospel while we're alive today.

54.33 I believe that repentance is important in faith and faithfulness to God

Acts 2:38 - And Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of **the Holy Spirit**. (ESV)

Joel 2:12-13 - Yet even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. (ESV)

And repentance has the fruit of in your heart truly deciding to tell the truth, not commit adultery, etc. - being accountable to God, knowing that He sees.

Matthew 3:8 - Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. (ESV)

This is following the law by faith, I think; Truly loving God and one's neighbour.

There are a lot of 'do nots' in the law but the most important thing is the 2 'do' commandments. The 'do nots' are to stop people from doing bad things, but the 2 Greatest commandments command us to love God and our neighbour.

Matthew 22:37-40 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Colossians 3:4-9 - When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

Lots of people say these days that trying to follow the law is self-righteousness and I don't really agree with that because to follow the law in faith is OK. But to be 'under' the law is put oneself under a curse.

54.34 Celebrating/endorsing sin / error is not right

If a newly born-again Christian is spending all their time with sinners though and endorsing continually instead of being discipled, then they can have their mind conformed to the sinners instead of being strengthened in the truth. This is why I think it's not especially great to, immediately after getting born-again, be overly exposed to unbelievers and sinners.

Jesus ate with sinners but Jesus was the special guest. Think of Nicodemus inviting Jesus over.

54.35 Faith has substance to it, and an amount to it, usually drawn out over time

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (KJV)

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (ESV)

For me, I was acting in faith ever since I was born-again, resulting in a huge chain of events and confirmations!

54.36 Faith believes God and hopes in invisible things, and is convicted of them

But at the end of the day, justification by faith in Jesus justifies the ungodly sinner - but it is faith that God justifies and not faithlessness. It's the type of belief that recognises one's sin, and results in love for Jesus, and it's obedient and submissive to God - it's repentant.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Where we are unfaithful, though, God is faithful. God wants us to choose Him. He wants us to repent.

54.37 Jesus' words never pass away. The law could only pass away after heaven and earth passes away

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (ESV)

Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus declared, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Mark 13:31 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Luke 10:21 - In that same hour he rejoiced in **the Holy Spirit** and said, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

Luke 16:17 - But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

We must abide in the teachings of Jesus, believing what Jesus has said, believing Jesus:

John 5:37-38 - And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe **the one whom he has sent**. (ESV)

Matthew 5:14-20 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished**. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Luke 21:33 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The passing away of the heavens and earth looks like the destruction of the present heavens and earth, including the planets, galaxies, etc. and the works done on earth will be exposed. It's an extreme event:

II Peter 3:10 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (ESV)

The Works of Philo Judaeus, Philo of Alexandria (20BC - 50AD), On the Life of Moses II But the enactments of this lawgiver are firm, not shaken by commotions, not liable to alteration, but stamped as it were with the seal of nature herself, and they remain firm and lasting from the day on which they were first promulgated to the present one, and there may well be a hope that they will remain to all future time, as being immortal, as long as the sun and the moon, and the whole heaven and the whole world shall endure.

54.38 Structure of the Kingdom

When applying the law, justice and mercy and faithfulness are the weightier matters of the law. However, the remainder of the law is not supposed to be neglected either:

Matthew 23:23-25 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

The law still exists. A thought I have : "Perhaps structure of God's kingdom might be determined by the law and Jesus' words."

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (ESV)

Heaven is God's throne and its foundation is righteousness and justice.

Psalms 97:2 - Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Psalms 89:14 - Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. (ESV)

Acts 7:49 - 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is the footstool of My feet; What kind of house will you build for Me?' says the Lord, 'Or what place is there for My repose?

The universe is upheld by the word of Jesus' power.

Hebrews 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (ESV)

Revelation of John 20:4 - Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

54.38.1 Great or small in the kingdom of God

54.38.2 The one who is least in the kingdom is who is great

Matthew 18:4 - Whoever **humbles himself like this child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Luke 9:48 - and said to them, Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For **he who is least (3398. mikros) among you all is the one who is great.** (ESV)

54.38.3 Your servant will be greater

Mark 9:35 - And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all. (ESV)

Mark 10:43-45 - But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Quote from Martin Luther King Jr.:

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

54.38.4 The humble and obedient will be called great

There's a quiet confidence from practicing one's righteousness (accountable to God) so long as we are seeking to honour God by our obedience and get praise from God, not seeking worldly praise:

I John 3:18-22 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. (ESV)

The justified are not self-righteous but live with an awareness they **still** need God's grace and practice their obedience in *submission* to God:

Luke 18:10-14 - Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

Being under grace means knowing we always live under the mercy of God:

Romans 6:14 - For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but **under grace**. (ESV)

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people**, training us to **renounce ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to **live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age**, **waiting for our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Jeremiah 31:34 - And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, Know the LORD, for they shall all know me, **from the least of them to the greatest**, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (ESV)

Those in the kingdom of God hold faith in Jesus and serve Jesus:

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

And we serve in the strength that God provides. If we find ourselves in a position to demonstrate serving others out of love, and the Scriptures have a lot to say about what that love looks like (such as in the 10 commandments. See **Romans 13:9-10**), then we should do so and give God the glory:

I Peter 4:11 - whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

There are commandments from God which even Paul the Apostle regarded as important to follow for all people who serve Jesus, such as the 10 Commandments and the commandments which came from Jesus Himself, including the Golden Rule:

Romans 13:9-10 - The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

The law is good. The Law apart from Christ is not our source of justification but we don't teach people to disobey it, especially those who follow it by faith.

Romans 14:10-14 - Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess (G1843 exomologeó) to God. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. (ESV)

Instead we focus on following Jesus first and foremost:

Romans 14:22-23 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

When it comes to following the law as a Christian, it's a matter of being accountable to God personally over our own level of law adherence while we follow Jesus first and foremost.

Quote by John Piper That's who we are as Christians. When we walk according to the Spirit, we fulfill the just requirement of the law. That is, we keep the commandments, we love. We are doers of the law. Not sinlessly perfect law-keepers. Nobody is nor anybody has been except Jesus, which is why we depend on Him, but rather, radically transformed people, through faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaning on the grace of God that comes to us through Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the original Apostles and the founding fathers of Christianity still taught us to keep the 2 Great commandments and the 10 Commandments which is sound doctrine:

- **I Corinthians 7:19** - Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. (KJV)

So long as we hold faith in Christ, we're no longer victims of the curse of the law (which is to rely on keeping the full law perfectly including perfectly fulfilled in works to avoid being cursed):

Galatians 3:10-13 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them shall live by them. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree— (ESV)

Those who keep God's commandments and **and** the righteousness of faith / the testimony of Jesus will be called great in the kingdom:

Matthew 5:19 - Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called *least in the kingdom of heaven*, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called *great in the kingdom of heaven*. (ESV)

So long as we hold faith in Christ, we're no longer victims of the curse of the law (which is to rely on keeping the full law perfectly including perfectly fulfilled in works to avoid being cursed):

Galatians 3:10-13 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them. Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for The righteous shall live by faith. But the law is not of faith, rather The one who does them shall live by them. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree— (ESV)

It is humility to keep God's commandments by faith (and not works), accountable to God who sees in secret.

Quote by John Piper "Pride is insubordinate. [It says,] You don't have a right to tell me what to do. That's what happened in the Garden of Eden right at the beginning of our sinful plight. And that's what all of us do apart from God's grace."

There is a self-righteous way of trying to keep the law, and there is a humble way. The law is not annulled but our justification comes from faith in Jesus.

- The self-righteous way
 - Pursues the law as if by works
 - Observes the law in detail but doesn't follow even the basics **from the heart** and in truth, or in faith.
 - Doesn't maintain being honest and faithful to God.
 - Doesn't maintain loving one's neighbour in truth and reality.
 - Lacks mercy.
 - Often criticizes others but with hypocrisy, not seeing they break the law while they accuse.
 - Often makes the mistake of condemning the innocent.
 - Often makes the mistake of being without mercy, or love.
- The humble way, with faith
 - Is accountable to God - it's not lying to God.
 - No deceit.
 - It's acknowledging that God is right, and His law is right.
 - It's loving God, and loving one's neighbour.
 - It's **compatible** with being led by the Spirit, not opposed

Matthew 7:3-5 - Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (ESV)

Galatians 5:18-21 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.** (ESV)

We must be **doing** the will of God to not be under the law:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (ESV)

We must instead be led by the Spirit, and follow Christ Jesus:

Galatians 5:22-25 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (ESV)

54.38.5 God's kingdom is from Heaven to Earth

Genesis 14:19 - And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Isaiah 66:1 - Thus says the Lord, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest???

Jeremiah 23:24 - "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the Lord. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the Lord.??

Acts 7:49 - 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is the footstool of My feet; What kind of house will you build for Me?' says the Lord, 'Or what place is there for My repose??'

Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

Luke 10:21 - At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

Revelation of John 14:7 - And he said with a loud voice, Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.

Acts 17:24 - The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

54.38.6 Jesus inherits the entire Kingdom

Hebrews 1:2 - in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

I Corinthians 15:25 - For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

I Corinthians 15:27 - For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

Ephesians 1:22 - And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Hebrews 2:8 - You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

Hebrews 10:13 - waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

54.38.7 Jesus' sheep/followers/saints inherit the Kingdom with Jesus. Jesus' sheep follow Jesus

Matthew 24:45-47 - Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. (ESV)

Luke 12:32 - Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Luke 9:23 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Luke 18:22 - When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

John 21:22 - Jesus said to him, If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!

1 Corinthians 6:9-20 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food-and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, The two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of **the Holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Zechariah 8:23 - Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.

Revelation of John 2:26 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,

54.38.8 Followers of Jesus become fishers of men

Mark 1:17 - And Jesus said to them, Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.

54.38.9 One must be born-again to enter in and inherit the Kingdom of God

John 3:3 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 15:50 - I tell you this, brothers: **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

youtube.com: The Chosen scene: John 3:16 @time: 2 min 8 sec

54.39 There is no sexual immorality in Heaven, no violence, no sinners.

Heaven is not Earth. It's a place without sinning.

Psalms 11:5 - The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. (ESV)

But the Kingdom of God exists from Heaven to Earth.

II Peter 3:13-14 - But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Revelation 21:22-27 - And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day-and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (ESV)

Isaiah 11:6 - The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. (ESV)

I do believe this is referring to the bodily resurrection from the dead, not to mean being born-again of the spirit:

Matthew 22:30 - For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

54.40 Adhering to the law like a Pharisee - pursuing the law by works

But adhering to the law like a Pharisee is like strapping yourself to a razor blade, but that doesn't mean the law is wrong.

Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

The law doesn't save:

Galatians 3:21-24 - Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. (ESV)

The law doesn't save:

Hebrews 7:19-20 - On the one hand, a **former commandment** is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the **law made nothing perfect**); but *on the other hand, a better hope* is introduced, **through which we draw near to God**. (ESV)

II John 1:4-6 - I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

54.40.1 Instead of adhering to the law like a Pharisee we should become obedient to Jesus

That means loving others the way He loved us, and it involves accepting that He loved us first (through the atoning sacrifice):

Matthew 5:20 - For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

We believe God and believe God has sent Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins, and love others freely with Christ's love, relieving their burdens and forgiving their trespasses against us, as we have freely received love and forgiveness from God. This is actually following the Great Commandments to love God and our neighbour properly.

54.41 Follow the law mercifully and without self-righteousness, accountable to God, being a servant to others

So as to not become a hypocrite or condemn the innocent. Accountable to God - a relationship with God. Without self-righteousness.

Acts 23:3 - Then Paul said to him, God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?

Matthew 12:3-8 - He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And **if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless**. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.

The greatest among you will be your servant. Keeping the commandments by faith results in a person who is a servant, serving others.

Luke 22:26 - But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.

Matthew 5:19 - Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Not the best example, but, for example, when someone says you owe them money, and you can see they are blind, it's paying them because you're the one submitting to God.

It's humbling yourself even to others and following God's commandments in truth and reality, with a real faith relationship with God.

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

It's serving others as Jesus has served us:

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

It's keeping accountable to God and maintaining faithfulness to God, not keeping others accountable to you:

Romans 14:22 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. (ESV)

This isn't self-righteousness, but is a self-sacrificial obedience to continue working as a bond-servant of Christ, being the light of the world.

Philippians 2:14-16 - Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

54.42 Being in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth is being the light of the world

Seek the Kingdom of God:

II Peter 1:5-11 - For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was **cleansed from his former sins**. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Become born of the Spirit:

John 3:3-5 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

In Jesus Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, and are transferred into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

It's the Kingdom of Christ and God:

Ephesians 5:5 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has **no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God**. (ESV)

As we walk in the light, as He is in the light, that is in the Truth, walking in, believing, professing and obeying Jesus Christ in Truth, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin:

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

Walking in the light is walking righteously, in love and holiness and truth:

Ephesians 5:1-17 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (ESV)

We are the light of the world. Yes, we must do good:

Matthew 5:14-20 - You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore **whoever relaxes** one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same **will be called least** in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever does them and teaches them will be called great** in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

We must do good, and behave like the children of God, or we will not enter the Kingdom, and that sanctification involves exercising Christ's love (Matthew 25:34):

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 3:7 - Little children, **let no one deceive you.** Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

I John 2:29 - If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. (ESV)

When we are transferred into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and God, the world hates us, but then we need to shine our light in the darkness, resisting the falsehood:

John 15:19 - If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (ESV)

54.43 All the law is still used

We're not under / condemned by the Mosaic law but we still don't encourage the breaking of the Mosaic law.

The law is good and it still exists, and God still uses the law. All of it. We are supposed to stand for truth and live righteously as the light of the world.

If a person rejects this because they don't like law then they are lying to themselves because Jesus teaches that not a jot will pass away:

John 12:48 - The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Heaven and earth is still around, so therefore the law still exists, but those who are doing the will of God and being led by God's spirit, following Jesus are not **under** it nor condemned by it - that is a conditional promise:

Luke 16:17 - But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

We all fall short of the glory of God and require the God's righteousness imputed to us through faith in Jesus, but having the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus is not license to sin.

Jesus Christ is the end of the law to all who believe, but grace isn't an excuse to sin.

God's commandments (especially the 10 Commandments; loving God and your neighbour) are still binding on us - written on our heart when we get born-again.

Right after I got born-again of the Spirit I wrote about the 10 commandments being written on my heart, and I believe it was the Holy Spirit inspiring me and also letting me loose to write (and also later be corrected).

I have a more detailed explanation here:

- [web.archive.org mullikine.github.io](http://web.archive.org/mullikine.github.io): Astral Projection Part 1 - Death with Jesus // Bodacious Blog

Galatians 6:14-17 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. (ESV)

Despite some people believing the new birth is not like a pregnancy, it was indeed like a pregnancy from my experience.

John 3:6 - That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (ESV)

I really believe that John Piper's explanation should be listened to / read:

- [youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgXzJyfjwIY)

AMEN to this particular quote too:

youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit @time: 48 min 13 sec "If anyone keeps Jesus' word, holds fast, treasures it, in obedience, that person will not be quenching the Spirit, that person will not be grieving the Spirit, but will know the fullness and sweetness of fellowship with the Father and the Son." - AMEN to that, John Piper

Now I could go into detail about why I repented "after" being born of the Spirit, and I have explained things a bit later in this document. But I certainly hold fast to what is good, and allow the Holy Spirit to clean me, as I continue to believe and obey the Holy Spirit.

I can't speak to what people's experience might be.

John 3:8 - The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

I received a blue light-body made of blue Spirit light/fire:

... I could feel having a body and see it but the sight I had was unlike regular sight.

When I looked at myself I could see what looked many blue power lines running up my body, glowing and lighting up in blue as waves of some kind of energy moved up and down, pulsating slowly, causing them to glow.

I knew exactly where each part of my physical body was, just as if a person does when they are awake was but when I moved, I seem to have been detaching with another one, which was blue. I thought to myself, “This is my consciousness just trying to retain a sense of self as I am wilfully moving but my body is still asleep.” Perhaps that’s not far from reality.

I could reach in within my own body with my astral hands and ‘see’ where my regular arms lay, but I no vision whatsoever of skin nor flesh, but in a way I could faintly see blackish organs. As I placed my hands below my bones it sent electrical impulses through my body. I could hear electrical vibrations (an electrical sound, like a brrr or a zrrrr) get louder as moved them through my torso and below my rib cage. I could move into my body and feel my organs, and a sore spot under and below my right lung.

I was actually awake and tried to pray aloud but that is when I knew I was in sleep paralysis as I could not make any sounds, nor open my eyes. I sat up a bit where I lay, but just my astral body. And I could see myself. I think I could do this because my body was still very asleep. I prayed to Jesus for forgiveness and for his protection because I was scared and did not know what was going on. This was a very unusual experience. I was experiencing sleep paralysis but when I tried to move I actually could move, but only with my astral body. I came out of my body only by lying up a bit and feeling inside my upper torso but with my astral hands.

There was a sore spot inside in my physical body which I was aware of and when I touched it with my astral hand it felt tender.

I decided I would just lie there, and experience being able to voluntarily (a bit like sonar) send waves of chilling vibrations over my body just by thinking “I want to scan my body”.

I woke up intentionally and it was as if I were already awake but opening my eyes and getting out of bed again, though I could’ve easily slipped back into sleep if I wanted. ...

To this day, I still have my blue light-body. Though I don’t see it with my regular eyes I can still feel it humming!

Galatians 6:14-17 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Be Who You Are: Living Out Identity in Christ, Part 1

54.43.1 Even the smallest of laws still come into effect in certain circumstances

Leviticus 19:27 - You shall not round off the hair on your temples or mar the edges of your beard. (ESV)

For example, if Jesus sends you as an ambassador to some pagans and they asked you to shave your head in this specific way, or eat food sacrificed to idols.

James 4:17 - So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (ESV)

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

Therefore, a person should do what is out of love and faith for the LORD, based on their knowledge of the law, their faithfulness to God and their conviction.

54.43.2 We do not seek to change God's law

Fellow heirs with Christ are still in subjection to Christ. Fellow heirs with Christ have Christ as their King and Lord and Saviour and God and Jehovah as their God.

Christ is reigning until all things are subjected to Him. We must come under the Lordship of Christ Jesus. I consider any so-called god which is in rebellion to Christ to be a demon:

I Corinthians 15:25-28 - For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For God has put all things in subjection under his feet. But when it says, all things are put in subjection, it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. **When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.** (ESV)

The prophet Daniel had a vision of kings making war against God, and the saints siding with God:

Daniel 7:1-3 - In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. Daniel declared, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. (ESV)

Daniel 7:4-7 - The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. (ESV)

These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth:

Daniel 7:1-8 - In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. Daniel declared, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. (ESV)

Daniel 7:9-12 - As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. (ESV)

The saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever:

Daniel 7:13-14 - I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that **all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him**; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (ESV)

Daniel 7:15-18 - As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. **These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.** (ESV)

Daniel 7:19-24 - Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said: As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. (ESV)

Daniel 7:25-26 - He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. (ESV)

Daniel 7:27-28 - And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them. Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart. (ESV)

54.44 My experience of being born-again, and reasoning surrounding justification

I affirm justification through faith alone by the imputed righteousness of having trusting faith in Jesus (in the heart, without any work) for the finished work of the cross but I believe that this belief has to be qualified, and that God does the qualifying when He looks at the heart. Amen.

I think that a willingness to turn to obey Jesus in the heart is characteristic of a repentant heart, and I think a willingness to turn away from evil and follow Jesus is an important step towards being born-again.

It's also important to have a response of love for Jesus, and without Jesus' finished work on the cross, we couldn't receive Jesus' Holy Spirit to live inside us.

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit goes to those who obey Jesus.

The Bible also teaches that the Holy Spirit goes to those who put their faith on Jesus.

54.44.1 John Piper's view, I affirm, but it also sounds optimal

I believe John Piper's view here is optimal, that during the turbulent process of being born-again of the spirit, we should rely entirely on the righteousness of Christ, and not be led astray by relying on our own works for justification.

John Piper - We should rely entirely on the righteousness of Christ imputed to us by faith alone as the ground of God being 100% for us after which necessary sanctification comes.

54.44.2 But my experience was like this and this is why I cannot deny the importance of obedience and abiding in the teaching of Christ by obedient, trusting, hoping, faith, even before being born of the Spirit

Before I was born-again of the Spirit, I was trying to build a 'Noah's Ark-like' software called Pen.el, and also was endeavouring to keep the 10 commandments by faith seeking God, and then I got born-again of the Spirit.

When I was born of the Spirit (2 April 2022), God permitted me to confess (G3670 homologeo) Jesus to **Him**, and I made a strong repentance to walking in far more obedient faith thereafter. I didn't receive any commendation from my perspective when I was born-again of the Spirit.

Genesis 22:16-17 - and said, By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, (ESV)

But then, as what happened to me after I was born-again of the Spirit (by the grace of God through faith), is that shortly after I was quickly confronted with a lot of paganism, and through obedience to Jesus' commandments through that time, as I learned to walk in them, I was simultaneously getting tested very strongly on them through other people.

I even began to get dreams of evading judgement through good works, and then pagan dreams etc. that were distinctly not Christian, and all I'm saying is that adhering to the truth that I am justified not by my own works but by Christ's finished works was very important for me through that time, so that I wasn't led astray by paganism.

I'm also sanctified as I cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the process of sanctification - post-justification.

We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. That's the point of justification. Who cares if we are righteous. We don't want to be God - we want to see the glory of God. But we want to be ready for it, walking righteously:

Luke 17:22-27,30 - And he said to the disciples, The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, Look, there! or Look, here! Do not go out or follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be *rejected by this generation*. **Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man**. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (ESV)

Luke 21:33-36 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. **For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth**. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (ESV)

54.44.3 I also affirm justification by works of faith done by grace [alone], not just 'faith alone' because I affirm Romans 4:9-12 which says its both groups, and also Hebrews 11 confirms

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

The ones who adhere to the Law (i.e. the true circumcision) should also walk in steps of faith that Abraham had before he was circumcised. I believe in this type of 'merit' if you would call it merit. In reality these works of faith type salvation is still 'grace alone'.

Hebrews 11:2 - For by it the people of old received their commendation. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (ESV)

Genesis 6:7-9 - So the LORD said, I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. (ESV)

Luke 19:8-9 - And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. (ESV)

Now what's interesting to me is that before 2 April 2022, I indeed considered myself to be a Christian but in all honesty from my current angle I think I was spiritually dead. But I had started taking steps of faith in God to seek Him out for about a year before then. I didn't have the obvious sense of God's presence which I do now after 2 April 2022. But in 2021 I was casually seeking a real relationship with Jesus. In desperation I called out to God for help and I was born-again of the Spirit. It's still grace. It's still salvation. And it's plainly evident to me that God had been working in my life before I was born-again of the Spirit. It seems obvious that God had been creating in me faith. And it's also plainly evident to me that after I was born-again the Holy Spirit would speak to me through Christians even at my baptist church. I have no doubts it's Jesus' Holy Spirit who has been working in me. I also believe that as Jesus had done with Saul, He may use a person's existing situation which they were in when they are born-again and use for His purposes, and so use their "work". But when I was born of the Spirit, that was quite something, and from my angle all a person would seek to do in a situation like what happened to me is focus on the Lord Jesus and want to be obedient to Him:

Titus 3:3-7 - For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (ESV)

I believe that it's God who tests the heart and justifies who has faith in Jesus.

I also don't think I have an exact idea of what has been good works in the eyes of God before and after 2 April 2022. If someone wants me to try to say that 2 April 2022 was when I was justified and started producing good works, then I don't think I can say that actually. The truth is I actually just don't know if or when God has justified me. I just have faith that I'm justified by Jesus' blood, and called out to God to help me and He helped me and now I'm just really wanting to remain faithful to Him.

54.44.4 Mid-2022 to mid-2023 was chaotic

- I was saved when I was spiritually dead as an act of pure grace - like a plane on the verge of crashing to the ground, I was born-again at one of the lowest (perhaps the lowest) points in my life.
- My own theology and behaviour was deeply flawed when I was born-again, and it had to be rectified, and that was a painful process as I repented **after** being born-again of the spirit.
- Without reforming my behaviour to come into obedience to Jesus' commandments after being born-again, I would've been led into endorsing paganism and licentiousness.
- Adhering to the truth during these events had me in constant spiritual warfare, and it wasn't easy, so I believe that obedience is **extremely important** and I think is in some way **very important** to saving faith.

Obeying Jesus is very important:

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheó*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

- G4100 *(pisteuōn)*: This is the present participle form of the verb " " (G4100 *pisteuō*), meaning "to believe" or "to have faith." In the participle form, it functions as a verbal adjective and can be translated as "believing."

I John 5:10-13 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

But we must not believe in vain. We must continue trusting Jesus. We must believe and hold fast to the gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast (2722. *katechó*) to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

2722. *katechó* Usage: (a) I hold fast, bind, arrest, (b) I take possession of, lay hold of, (c) I hold back, detain, restrain, (d) I hold a ship, keep its head.

By faith we must continue obeying God, forsaking sin, that we may share in Christ:

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

While our faith may waver, Jesus remain faithful, but we must not turn away forever from Jesus:

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; **if we deny him, he also will deny us**; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

Of first importance is that we are believing in, trusting in, **trusting the correct Jesus**. We must be *teachable / correctable* by Jesus (accepting as true His words and his deeds):

I Corinthians 15:3-9 - For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve**. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (ESV)

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Charity Gayle - Thank You Jesus for the Blood {Live}

54.44.5 An obedient/loving response to Jesus, I think is extremely important

I believe it's necessary that we should have a loving response to Jesus, and an obedient response to Jesus. Is that preaching justification through my own works or my own effort? No, I don't think so.

The **obediently loving response** to Jesus after being born-again of the spirit is to pass-forward the mercy onto others (forgive others as we have been forgiven), die to the selfish nature and learn to walk in Jesus' commandments.

54.44.6 But I believe the grace is a free gift from God.

Jesus is so generous that He saves people who turn out to be unthankful, but we should definitely love Jesus as a response. This story should be taken not only to see how Good God is, but also taken as a warning against unthankfulness:

Luke 17:11-19 - On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. When he saw them he said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And he said to him, Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

54.45 Justification by faith - Jews + Gentiles, and in-between

There is only the one gospel message: the same gospel that Paul, Jesus, Peter and John preached.

Paul preached the same gospel as Jesus before His crucifixion, and the same gospel that Peter and John preached, but some people think Paul's gospel is different - but that is because they have been deceived by the two-gospel heresy:

- The Two Gospel Heresy - Anton Bosch

Jesus even told people He would be killed and raised, as John the Baptist taught that Jesus takes away the sin of the world, and people came to believe He is the Saviour of the world:

Matthew 17:22-23 - As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day. And they were greatly distressed. (ESV)

John 1:29 - The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (ESV)

John 4:42 - They said to the woman, It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world. (ESV)

It's the same gospel:

I Corinthians 15:1-11 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. **Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.** (ESV)

We must follow Jesus Christ who died for our sins, the light of the world, the Good Shepherd, and come into the truth, and into the Kingdom of God. Jesus is Lord of Lords, our Lord, our Saviour, our Master, our King, our God, the Light, the Truth:

John 12:44-47 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. **I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.** If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. (ESV)

Zechariah 13:7 - Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me, declares the LORD of hosts. Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones. (ESV)

Jesus taught people to trust in Him and keep His teachings:

John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (ESV)

John 8:51 - Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death. (ESV)

And Jesus taught that this would produce a transformation in the person where a person receives the Holy Spirit:

John 7:37-38 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (ESV)

Even before His crucifixion, it's clear that Jesus taught the New Covenant:

Luke 22:20 - And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (ESV)

Even before His crucifixion, it's clear that we may have faith in Jesus to forgive us, and change our ways:

John 8:11 - She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more. (ESV)

And according to Paul, Jesus' commands are still binding. We must help the weak. We must remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

Acts 20:35 - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way **we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus**, how he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:24-25 - and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. (ESV)

Jesus' words do not pass away, and the truths He spoke before being crucified remain true:

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

Jesus' words are the words of eternal life:

John 6:68 - Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, (ESV)

Polycarp 2:3 but remembering the words which the Lord spake, as He taught; Judge not that ye be not judged. Forgive, and it shall be forgiven to you. Have mercy that ye may receive mercy. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again; and again Blessed are the poor and they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

To be raised up as a child of Abraham, bear fruit in keeping with repentance. We repent from sin to trust in God and stop desiring evil and we go to the good future:

Luke 3:8 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

See: ??

To be regarded as a child of Abraham, a person must fall into one of 2 categories:

- walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised, I believe with respect to having faith in Jesus Christ, but I also this likely counts to adherents of the law of God (i.e. the circumcised) who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that Abraham had before he was circumcised
 - **John 8:39** - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, **If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did**, (ESV)
- faith in Jesus Christ:
 - **Galatians 3:7-9** - Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham**, saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed. So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (ESV)

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

I believe this also counts to those who are of the "real/spiritual circumcision". After being born-again of the Spirit, it seems natural to want to obey and trust God the way Abraham did and walk in works of faith like Abraham:

Philippians 3:3 - For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— (ESV)

Colossians 2:11-12 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (ESV)

How do we become sons of Abraham:

Sermon youtube.com: How Do Gentiles Become Sons of Abraham? Galatians 3:6, Part 3

I do believe that trusting inevitably bears fruit. Also Abraham obeyed God's commandments - that's all tied up inside the faith which Abraham had towards God. We must have faith in God, too, but with respect to having faith in Jesus Christ, following Jesus Christ.

It is because of what Jesus Christ has accomplished through His obedience to God, His death and resurrection, that having faith in Him is effective. Everyone **in Christ** has Him as their High Priest.

We must be a **child of Abraham**. The blessing comes through being counted as sons of Abraham.

Romans 9:7-8 - and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. (ESV)

Genesis 17:4 - Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. (ESV)

The sign of circumcision was a seal of righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.

The word "telē" in I Cor 10:11 is the plural of "telos" which is used in Romans 10:4. It doesn't mean "abolishment". It's more like "culmination", "goal, or "full maturity", or the "final stage", or the "ultimate purpose" and that if a person has arrived at faith in Jesus then they have arrived at the destination where the Mosaic Law was a "schoolmaster" to get us to. Now even if the coming faith was not yet "revealed", if someone were to have pursued the Mosaic Law by genuine fear of God, love of God, trust of God, hope in God, faith in the heart (rather than the exterior works) then that would still be commendable. But if a person rejects Jesus (say if they reject Him as King, or as Christ, if they don't submit to God's righteousness) then it simply shows that they do not have true faith in God, that they do not do what Abraham did, they do not have the love of God, the love of the Truth in them:

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end (G5056 telos) of the law (G3551 nomos) for righteousness (G1343 dikaiosune) to everyone who believes (G4100 pisteuo, trusts). (ESV)

Galatians 3:22-27 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (ESV)

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

The faith we must have is still law, but it's not a law of works:

Romans 3:21-31 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the **law of faith**. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

Also, faith in Jesus is obedience to Jesus, because we are instructed to **hold the faith without partiality** - that's faithfulness to God regarding seeking to do His will which includes obedience to His commandments:

James 2:1 - My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)

The Apostle Paul says something similar. Faith is a matter of being accountable to God, even with respect to law-keeping:

Romans 14:22 - The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. (ESV)

The purpose was to make him the father of all who have believing, obeying, trusting, faithful **faith** without being circumcised so righteousness can be counted to them as well.

Romans 4:11-12 - He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him **the father of all who believe without being circumcised**, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him **the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised**. (ESV)

The promises go to Christ:

Galatians 3:16 - Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, And to offsprings, referring to many, but referring to one, And to your offspring, who is Christ. (ESV)

We belong to Christ by faith. **If you belong to Christ by faith then you are one in spirit with Christ** and Abraham's offspring, and heirs according to the promise:

Galatians 3:29 - And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

A new creation lives for Christ:

II Corinthians 5:14-17 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

People who are now in Christ are a new creation, and we should be transitioning into the new. That might take some shaking off of old things, and involves being sanctified by obedience to the Truth. But those who are in Christ are a brand new creation:

1	5620	[e]	1487	[e]	5100	[e]	1722	[e]	5547	[e]	2537	[e]
2	hōste	ei		tis	en		Christō		kainē			
3					X	,						
4	Therefore	if		anyone	[is]	in	Christ		[he is]	a new		
5	Conj	Conj		IPro-NMS	Prep		N-DMS		Adj-NFS			
6												
7	2937	[e]	3588	[e]	744	[e]	3928	[e]		2400	[e]	
8	ktisis	ta		archaia		parēlthen			idou			
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10	creation	The		old	things	have	passed	away	behold			
11	N-NFS	Art-NNP		Adj-NNP		V-AIA-3S			V-AMA-2S			
12												
13	1096	[e]			2537	[e]						
14	gegonen				kaina							
15					.							
16	has	come	into	being	[the]	new						
17	V-RIA-3S			Adj-NNP								

Matthew 20:27-28 - and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Jesus Christ's blood is the atonement for our sin.

We should also become obedient to Him - we must have faith in Jesus.

John 8:39 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did,

One of the blessings is that we are counted as righteous before God, because we have faith in Jesus, loving Jesus.

Another promise is that we would be a co-heir of the world - our Lord Jesus Christ Himself inheriting everything. We belong to the Messiah. In the Messiah, God can make promises such as this to His chosen people:

Romans 4:13 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (ESV)

The measure of that inheritance is dependent on our embracing sanctification:

Acts 20:25-32 - And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you **the whole counsel of God**. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I **did not cease night or day to admonish everyone** with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are **sanctified**. (ESV)

It's having a share in the inheritance but the entire inheritance belongs to Jesus, not us. Also it only goes to those who are glorified with Him through suffering:

Colossians 1:11-12 - May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (ESV)

Romans 8:16-18 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him**. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (ESV)

I Peter 1:3-7 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

Another promise is that in Christ (in union with Christ), the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles so that we together Jew, and Gentile, might receive the promised Spirit (God's Spirit) through faith:

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

God can raise up children from anyone who has repentance and may grant being a child of Abraham to anyone who walks in the footsteps of the faith that Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Luke 3:3-8 - And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

John the Baptist even taught people to love one another:

Luke 3:11-15 - And he answered them, Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise. Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, Teacher, what shall we do? And he said to them, Collect no more than you are authorized to do. Soldiers also asked him, And we, what shall we do? And he said to them, Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages. As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ,

And I assume that repentance and loving one's neighbour are good precursors to being baptised by Jesus with **the Holy Spirit** and fire:

Luke 3:16 - John answered them all, saying, I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with **the Holy Spirit** and with fire.

Justification by faith is the correct teaching but the promise is for the gentiles AND the adherent of the law but they all must have faith, and pursuing the law as if by works is the problem, but pursuing the law by faith is ok.

I believe in-between is OK, so long as it is by faith.

Romans 7:22 - For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

Romans 3:29-30 - Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. **He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** (ESV)

It's possible for Gentiles to keep Jewish commandments if they want (I think it's honorable) - but we are justified by faith in Jesus, not by being under the law:

Romans 2:25-29 - For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

It's possible to keep commandments by faith:

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

Romans 4:15-16 - For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring-not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (ESV)

Matthew 5:17-25 - Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment. But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, You fool! will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. (ESV)

54.46 Theoretically belief usually comes before or at the time receiving *the Holy Spirit*

But for me I believe before I was born-again and before I was baptised in **the Holy Spirit**.

Acts 19:1-7 - And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, Did you receive **the Holy Spirit** when you believed? And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. And he said, Into what then were you baptized? They said, Into John's baptism. And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit** came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all. (ESV)

55 Receive through the hearing of the word and faith

Galatians 3:2 - Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? (ESV)

Not just by hearing but by hearing with faith.

55.1 Faith requires obedience

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive **the promised Spirit through faith**. (ESV)

55.2 The promised Spirit is received through faith

Galatians 3:14 - so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

Matthew 19:16-26 - And behold, a man came up to him, saying, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The young man said to him, All these I have kept. What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

I was born-again on 2 April 2022. On 1 April 2022 (one day before) I was wearing a pendant which on one side I had written 1023 which is decimal for the binary 111111111 - which are ten ones. I was trying hard to follow the ten commandments **from the heart**, like Jesus teaches. I was doing this to seek Jesus. Then I was born-again. What a mystery.

Read cbs.mbt.edu: April 3, AD 33: Why We Believe We Can Know the Exact Date Jesus Died - The Center for Biblical Studies

I've also seen written people's estimations that it was on April 1, but at this time I am leaning towards April 3 as the date.

The **day of the Lord** (as in the second-coming of Jesus Christ, see Revelation of John 1:7) has not happened yet:

II Thessalonians 2:1-4 - Now concerning **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (ESV)

Revelation of John 1:7 - Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. (ESV)

Matthew 24:27 - For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (ESV)

Matthew 24:30 - Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (ESV)

Daniel 7:13 - I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (ESV)

Matthew 24:36 - But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. (ESV)

Matthew 24:42-44 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

Jesus is coming a second time to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him. AMEN!!:

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

Hold faith in Jesus to become sons of light:

John 12:36 - While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. (ESV)

John 12:46-48 - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

As sons of light we continue walking in the light, following Jesus:

Ephesians 5:8 - for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (ESV)

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

As children of light, holding our faith in Jesus, we anticipate the day of the Lord. Because we are walking in faith, love and holiness, even though the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, it will not surprise us like a thief (we'll be ready). It would be like hearing some news and saying "that doesn't surprise me", even though you only just heard the news and only just found out. It doesn't surprise us because we're walking in the love of the truth. The Word of God says that we don't know the day or the hour (**Matthew 24:42, Mark 13:30-37**). That's the truth. So a person who claims they do isn't agreeing with the truth:

I Thessalonians 5:2-10 - For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (ESV)

Jesus describes what "staying awake" is like. Staying awake certainly doesn't mean knowing the day or hour:

Mark 13:30-37 - Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake. (ESV)

We'll be ready, not repaying evil for evil, but we'll be endeavouring to do good to everyone:

I Thessalonians 5:15 - See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. (ESV)

As children of the light, the night far gone, we clothe ourselves with Jesus Christ and remain loving one-another, and walk in holiness, and we do not let darkness blind us:

Romans 13:8-14 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:14-16 - for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (ESV)

I John 2:8-11 - At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (ESV)

Proverbs 4:19 - The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble. (ESV)

But I consider that Jesus may have visited me personally to make me born-again and bring me into His service / or just into His will. But I also strongly believe this was for my own purification - God's grace to me:

Mark 13:32-37 - But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake. (ESV)

Jesus went to the place of the dead so people who had died (those who Paul is referring to here) may also be saved. Also, it seems that the rapture doctrine was **made known** from a **word from the Lord**:

I Thessalonians 4:14-17 - For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (ESV)

Although it happened around midday, I was lying down on my bed very peacefully with my cat and took a nap during the day. And when I was born-again in this way I asked Jesus to save me because I didn't know what was going on. So Like Paul the Apostle and the heavenly vision he received, the idea is to be taken into service by Jesus and continue in obedient faithfulness to Jesus. I also recognise we still wait for the eschatological "Day of the Lord" - the second coming of Jesus has not yet happened:

Matthew 24:41-44 - Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore **you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.** (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:2-5 - For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. (ESV)

Romans 4:20-22 - yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief (**570. apistia**) but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness. (NASB)

- 1 apistia: unbelief
- 2 Original Word: ἀπίστια, ,
- 3 Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine
- 4 Transliteration: apistia
- 5 Phonetic Spelling: (ap-is-tee'-ah)
- 6 Definition: unbelief
- 7 Usage: unbelief, unfaithfulness, distrust.

Remain faithful to Jesus:

Acts 26:19 - Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, (ESV)

Matthew 24:12-13 - And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:9-14 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (ESV)

Have your mind renewed:

Romans 12:1-2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

Hebrews 5:14 - But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:20-21 - Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. (ESV)

Isaiah 7:14-15 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. (ESV)

Since then I've been trying to follow Jesus' commandments to get to know Him out of love for God, and because He has commanded His disciples to be fruitful for Him, and to abide in Him.

I had my belief in Jesus Christ and I had taken small steps of faith in remaining loyal to Jesus.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

The following links obeying the commandments it to Jesus:

I Kings 11:38 - And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.

II Timothy 2:8 - Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,

55.2.1 Everlasting covenant

Genesis 17:19 - God said, No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

An indicator of the ones who are saved is that they have the fear of God in their hearts.

Jeremiah 32:40 - I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And **I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.** (ESV)

An indicator of the ones who are saved is that they have remorse for their past sin.

Ezekiel 16:58-63 - You bear the penalty of your lewdness and your abominations, declares the Lord. For thus says the Lord God: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant, yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an **everlasting covenant**. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you take your sisters, both your elder and your younger, and I give them to you as daughters, but not on account of the covenant with you. I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord, that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I atone for you for all that you have done, declares the Lord God.

In confessing sin as sin, the law is in our heart. If we confess sin as sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And in confessing our sin to one another, we who are in Christ have our souls sanctified. So continuing on in Christ, we are still walking in the truth, in the light, in the love of the truth.

Hebrews 8:10-13 - For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more. In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Hosea 2:19-20 - And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. (ESV)

God gives the Spirit to help keep the commandments. The gospel is in part about loving your neighbour, she is actually speaking part of the gospel in the way the man on the cross next to Jesus also spoke part of the full gospel message. They deserve the punishment but Jesus has done no wrong.

Galatians 5:14-16 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (**G3056 logō**): **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

55.2.2 2 years before being born again of the Spirit - prayer - proving belief came before being born-again

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220402091720/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/prayer/>

Not that I have to prove it though!

55.2.3 Over easter

The old covenant is growing old and ready to vanish, but the New Covenant still involves the commandments but they are written on our heart. We follow them in faith.

55.2.4 Being born-again

Being born of the Spirit isn't receiving the glory body:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220402091720/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/astral-projection/>

Galatians 6:14-17 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Be Who You Are: Living Out Identity in Christ, Part 1

So while I have Jesus' spirit in me, I'm also still in this body of dust:

I Corinthians 15:42-48 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also

a spiritual body. Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.

The lowly, natural, corruptible body, which I am still in, will be transformed into an incorruptible body:

Philippians 3:20-21 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

As interesting as what happened to me is, regarding a light body, I believe more important is objectively walking in the light of the truth.

John 1:9-11 - The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (ESV)

John 12:36 - While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

55.2.5 Meeting with *the Holy Spirit*

Jesus saving me - This is evidence the Holy Spirit is Person:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220402091720/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/astral-projection-pt->

I Timothy 6:20 - O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”—

II Timothy 1:14 - Guard, through **the Holy Spirit** who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

I believe that while John 3:33-34 speaks of Jesus Christ there is also truth to the way that if a person is "from God" then that person will speak words that are from God, and I think it makes sense that it would not be very bottlenecked, even for servants of Jesus with Holy Spirit in them. But no messenger is greater than the one who sent him. And so we must have Jesus Christ as our Only [ultimate] Teacher, and if what someone is saying is contrary to what Jesus Christ says then we must go with what Jesus Christ says:

John 3:33-34 - Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true.** For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. (ESV)

Matthew 12:34 - You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (ESV)

Luke 6:45 - The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (ESV)

I John 4:6 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (ESV)

John 15:20 - Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If **I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.** For **I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.** Truly, truly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master**, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

Something I realised fairly recently. I also before having that short conversation with Holy Spirit knew (as I was dreaming/asleep) that they were following me:

Jesus follows us and supports us:

I Corinthians 10:4 - and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (ESV)

55.2.6 I wrote about following the law by faith, also law written on my heart.

Quote "When Jesus said that he is the truth, he was saying that he is the embodiment and fulfillment of the Word of God, and that he is alétheia, reality, the opposite of what is false or illusion."

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220703044748/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/the-tapestry-of-truth>

In confessing sin as sin, the law is in our heart. If we confess sin as sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And in confessing our sin to one another, we who are in Christ have our souls sanctified. So continuing on in Christ, we are still walking in the truth, in the light, in the love of the truth.

Hebrews 8:10-13 - For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more. In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Romans 2:29 - But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

I Corinthians 7:19 - For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. (ESV)

55.2.7 Baptised in *the Holy Spirit*

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220806085237/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/astral-projection-pt-3/>
Betrothed to God:

Hosea 2:19-20 - And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. (ESV)

AMEN!!

Hosea 2:21-23 - And in that day I will answer, declares the Lord, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth, and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel, and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, You are my people; and he shall say, You are my God.

AMEN!!

II Corinthians 11:2 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (ESV)

Some people believe that the baptism by fire is arriving at Christian perfection:

- en.wikipedia.org: Christian perfection - Wikipedia

Even though I felt spiritually restored when I was baptised in the Holy Spirit / baptised by fire, I believe I am baptised by fire in order to obey God more fully, and to love God with my whole heart, to love my neighbour as myself and to pursue perfection in following Jesus!

Matthew 5:48 - You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

In Christ, we must "be perfect" in the sense that Jesus means when He says "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." In Christ, we must not hate one another. In Christ, we **must** agape love one another:

Colossians 3:13-14 - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

In other words, I received the grace **before** I had perfect obedience (I'm not saying I have 'flawless' obedience, and I'm not saying that I don't mistakes), and I believe I should not exchange this grace for anything, but use it to obey Jesus Christ:

Jude 1:4 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jude 1:4 - For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (KJV)

I believe that after I made testimony of being born-again and baptised by fire, I needed to be sanctified/corrected by the Truth, the Word of God, and as a consequence of endeavouring to do so by repenting and becoming obedient to Jesus, I was spiritually attacked and deplatformed.

55.3 Later in the year

John 15:26 - "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, (ESV)

The issue with this is that it did not explicitly say, "Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life." It only said, "He is the way and the truth and the life." So once again, it's me, by faith confessing that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220402091720/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/dream-the-way-the-truth-and-the-life/>

55.4 Jesus is our Eternal High Priest

Hebrews 7:26 - For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:27 - He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. (ESV)

Jesus is not only Eternal High Priest, but Son of God, and made perfect forever. AMEN!!:

Hebrews 7:28 - For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a **Son who has been made perfect forever.** (ESV)

Jesus is our Great High High Priest:

Hebrews 4:14-16 - Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

55.5 New covenant

Paul makes reference to the old covenant with the phrase "tablets of stone."

II Corinthians 3:3-8 - And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:25 - In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. (ESV)

Hebrews 8:8-10 - For he finds fault with them when he says: Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (ESV)

Hebrews 8:11-13 - And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more. In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:14-15 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (ESV)

We're back to the 10 commandments but to keep them in the way Jesus taught us to keep them, Serving one Master, one God, the One true God, Father God, through serving Jesus who He sent, not harbouring hate, covetousness in our hearts especially for our family in Christ, not being deceitful but speaking the truth to our neighbour, etc.

We are cleaned by the blood of Christ to serve the living God:

Matthew 4:10 - Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

We serve God by serving Christ:

Romans 16:17-20 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Disbelief causes disobedience. Disbelief caused the Israelites to not walk in obedience:

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:13 - though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, (ESV)

It was unbelief which led to these people's sin of idolatry and covetousness which prevented them from entering into God's rest:

Hebrews 3:7-15 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways. As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:7-11 - again he appoints a certain day, Today, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

It was idolatry that was the disobedience which prevented these from entering into God's rest:

I Corinthians 10:1-14 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (ESV)

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

Jesus says we should take His yoke and learn from Him and we will find rest for our souls. This is what we should do:

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

John 10:26-27 - but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.** (ESV)

Justin Martyr says, "Wherfore **those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him.**"

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}

And God, the Father of the universe, who is the perfect intelligence, is the truth. And the Word, being His Son, came to us, having put on flesh, revealing both Himself and the Father, giving to us in Himself resurrection from the dead, and eternal life afterwards. And this is Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. He, therefore, is Himself both the faith and the proof of Himself and of all things. Wherfore **those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him.** But since the adversary does not cease to resist many, and uses many and divers arts to ensnare them, that he may *seduce the faithful from their faith, and that he may prevent the faithless from believing, it seems to me necessary that we also, being armed with the invulnerable doctrines of the faith, do battle against him in behalf of the weak.*

Having faith in Jesus, obeying Jesus, Jesus gives us His spirit so we can keep actually God's commandments. We keep Jesus' commandments, He gives us His Spirit, and this helps us to keep the requirement of the law. Holding our faith in Him, we endeavour to fulfill the law (commandment) of Christ, and this keeps the requirement of the law:

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

1Clem 49:1 Let him that hath love in Christ fulfill the commandments of Christ.

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

James says, we should do this in mercy:

James 2:8-13 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (ESV)

So we need to be partakers of the New Covenant in order to even be able to fulfill the requirement of the law, and please God.

Romans 8:3-8 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

The object of our obedience to God as Christians is to Jesus Christ Himself (He's the fulfillment of the law!) - so this isn't lawlessness, it's just by faith obeying God to by faith obey Jesus.

Hebrews 5:8-9 - Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (ESV)

Through faith in Jesus, and obedience to Jesus we can have faith in Father God:

I Peter 1:20-22 - He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Jesus commanded us to have faith in God and to have faith in Him, so when we obey the law (commandment of Christ) we are having faith in Him and in God. We must trust in God:

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, Have faith in God.

John 14:1 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

Pisteuo means to trust. Trust in God, trust also in God's Son Jesus:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

The New Covenant is in Jesus' blood. We have faith in His blood (His passion, this death). When we take communion / eucharist we also do it with faith in His blood:

I Corinthians 11:25 - In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. (ESV)

Romans 3:25-31 - whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

I consider myself to be in the New Covenant, not the old, but I still believe that Jesus has set us free from the set of ordinances (it's no longer our Master) that we might meet the requirement of the law by faith, so that does mean keeping the commandments of God, or at least being able to, but it's God-empowered keeping of the commandments - even the 10 commandments. If we're truly trusting Jesus as we are seeking to obey Him by faith then the law can't condemn us. The Lord is the Spirit and if we are led by Him the law can't condemn us. e.g. I was trying to be faithful to Jesus and do no harm to my neighbour, bear my neighbour's burdens or show them Christ's love so the law can't condemn me for my actions.

Galatians 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (ESV)

II Corinthians 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:8-14 - Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

If we're following Jesus then Jesus is our Master, not the Law, and acceptable by God:

Matthew 12:5-6 - Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. (ESV)

Romans 14:18 - Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

I think what Hebrews says is that the old and new covenants exist alongside each other or overlap for a while but the old covenant is obsolete / deprecated.

Hebrews 8:13 - In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (ESV)

deprecated (a software term but seems surprisingly relevant) While deprecated software is no longer supported, it may continue to work. In some cases, however, deprecated software may stop working entirely if, for example, it is incompatible with an updated operating system.

"Obsolete" but not revoked!

Galatians 3:15 - To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. (ESV)

Galatians 3:17 - This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. (ESV)

Romans 11:25-29 - Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins. As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (ESV)

Nevertheless, having heard about Jesus Christ, one must not remain in the old covenant. There's no permitted choice to remain in the old covenant given knowledge of the new covenant. If we are trusting in Jesus we are not condemned. I guess then our trust may falter in various ways even resulting in disobedience and Jesus may judge us and discipline us to correct us. So long as we are trusting in Jesus we are still found in Christ. So we don't want our faith in Jesus to fail:

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (ESV)

John 15:22-24 - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but **now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also.** If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but **now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.** (ESV)

I John 2:23 - **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (ESV)

Luke 22:20-21 - And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. (ESV)

A person can be in one covenant or the other but not both at the same time:

Galatians 5:2-4 - Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. (ESV)

The new covenant has already arrived:

II Corinthians 3:14-17 - But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (ESV)

Paul is not outside the law of God, but he is under the law of Christ (under the commandment of Christ, Christ's commandments which are inside the law/commandment of God):

I Corinthians 9:20-21 - To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

But a distinction is made between commandments delivered by Moses and commandments delivered by Christ:

Galatians 3:24 - So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. (ESV)

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Acts 7:37 - This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 - The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die. And the LORD said to me, They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. (ESV)

So by faith we obey Jesus first and foremost. Sure, by faith we may be obedient to the 10 commandments (as Christians are instructed to follow them) and we **should** for the sake of holiness and putting a stop to sin to come to "see Jesus". But faith in Jesus comes first because He's our Master and Jesus' commandments depend on the the 2 Great Commandments. We must hold our trusting faith in God, in Jesus in love for God and for our neighbour.

I John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

Psalms 56:13 - For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life. (ESV)

This shows the apostles are already ministers of the new covenant:

II Corinthians 3:5-6 - Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:24-32 - and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)

So the law is written on the minds and hearts:

Hebrews 10:12-23 - But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (ESV)

It's possible to follow the ordinances, to be zealous for the law while having faith in Jesus - a Jewish Christian would do this:

Acts 21:23-25 - Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. (ESV)

But Jew and Gentile are united by faith in Jesus:

Ephesians 2:11-18 - Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. (KJV)

Gentiles of the flesh (those without faith in Jesus) are separated from the commonwealth of Israel:

Ephesians 2:11-13 - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (ESV)

Jews of the flesh, so long as they pursue the law by faith are not separated from the commonwealth of Israel:

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. (ESV)

Romans 9:30-33 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

But if they truly are Abraham's children, then they would do what Abraham did, and they certainly would not reject Jesus' words. And if God were truly their Father then they would love and receive Jesus Christ:

John 8:39-42 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

So certainly there can be those who pursue the Law by faith who have faith in and are followers of Jesus Christ.

Within the flesh of Himself Jesus abolished (G2673 katargēsas) the law of commandments and ordinances so that **in Himself** He might create one new man

Ephesians 2:14 (Interlinear) He Himself for is the peace of us - having made - both one and the barrier of the fence having broken down the hostility

Ephesians 2:15 (Interlinear) in the flesh of Him (G846 autou) , the law - of commandments in ordinances having annulled (G2673 katargēsas) so that the two He might create in Himself (G848 hautō) into one new man making peace

By faith we obey Christ first and foremost to be justified and to arrive at the knowledge of Christ and of God - we obey Jesus to arrive at knowing God:

II Corinthians 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (ESV)

John 8:19 - They said to him therefore, Where is your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also. (ESV)

I John 1:3 - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (ESV)

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

Galatians 5:1-7 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? (ESV)

Galatians 4:22-31 - For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, Rejoice, O barren one who does

not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband. Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman. So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (ESV)

Circumcision of the flesh does not matter because salvation by faith is available for both the circumcised (justification by faith with works of faith like Abraham's), and the uncircumcised (justification by faith alone). But we continue to abide in Christ's teachings/doctrines and the facts about Him and as we learn more of His words commandments, are corrected/salted and sanctified by Him:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe (G4100 *pisteuo*) without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

The true circumcised are the ones who obey the precepts of the law, and if they walk in the footsteps of faith which Abraham had before he was circumcised, then that is a valid mode of justification. I think there is a timelessness about it, but God's the justifier:

Romans 2:25-29 - For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. (ESV)

Romans 9:6-8 - But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. (ESV)

The timeless command of the eternal God to bring about the obedience of faith:

Romans 16:25-27 - Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations**, according to the command of the eternal God, **to bring about the obedience of faith** — to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (ESV)

We can have and should have a faith that loves the truth, loves Jesus, even if we haven't seen Him yet:

I Peter 1:8-11 - Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time (G2540 *kairós*) the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent (G3326 *meta*, contingent) glories. (ESV)

"Kairós" is qualitative and "xrónos" is quantitative:

G2540 kairós time as opportunity. 2540 /kairós ("opportune time") is derived from kara ("head") referring to things "coming to a head" to take full-advantage of.

G5550 xrónos time (in general), especially viewed in sequence (a "succession of moments"); time in duration in the physical-space world, sovereignly apportioned by God to each person.

In the ESV translation of I Peter 1:11, the word 'subsequent' represents the Greek word 'meta' (G3326 meta, contingent), but I think that an English translation would better translate 'meta' as "contingent" because that opens up to the reader the potential to be understood in a quantitatively chronological timelessness way as 'kairós' is also chronologically quantitatively neither here nor there. So in the original text, I think the Greek word 'meta' fits well alongside the word 'kairós'. It's not 'xrónos' which is in I Peter 1:11, but 'kairós' and so it's talking about the opportune moment in a qualitative way. The issue, I think, with using 'subsequent' is that it introduces into the text subliminally an idea that God had to "wait" for the "xrónos" time in order to commend the righteousness that is by faith, but that's evidently not true, and also in the very same verse, I Peter 1:11, it says there in the text that the Spirit of Christ was in them.

We must share the faith of Abraham to receive the grace:

Romans 4:13-17 - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, I have made you the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The first covenant had fault, but the New Covenant has no fault:

Hebrews 8:6-9 - But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. (ESV)

God writes His laws on our minds and on our hearts:

Hebrews 8:10-13 - For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more. In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Covenants require faithfulness between both parties, But Jesus is faithful even when we are unfaithful:

II Timothy 2:13 - if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

We come to know God through Jesus by faith and we are able to move on from dead works and focus more on faith towards God, and serving God now.

Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (ESV)

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (ESV)

Hebrews 9:11-15 - But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:18-20 - Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you. (ESV)

Mark 14:22-25 - And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, Take; this is my body. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Luke 22:15-20 - And he said to them, I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (ESV)

John 6:46-51 - Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” (ESV)

John 6:52 - Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”

John 6:53-56 - So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (ESV)

John 6:57-58 - As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”

John 6:59-60 - These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?"

John 6:61-62 - But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?"

John 6:63-65 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

55.6 Life is very different for me now after being born-again

As you can see in this discussion, I've been born-again and I'm living to serve Jesus now:

- <https://github.com/semiosis/pen.el/issues>

Colossians 3:3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (ESV)

I John 5:11 - And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (ESV)

Luke 12:23 - For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. (ESV)

Matthew 19:17 - And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Galatians 6:14 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (ESV)

It's important to thank God, even though life can be challenging after being born-again:

I Thessalonians 5:18 - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (ESV)

55.6.1 The 'wilderness' - I guess this is common experience/season for born-again season Christians after being baptised / born-again of the Spirit

Well explained here:

- youtube.com: Wilderness How To Come Out / New Wineskin New Season #2024

Matthew 3:15-17 - But Jesus answered him, Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (ESV)

Jesus Himself used the Scriptures to combat lies from the enemy:

Matthew 4:1-11 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread. But he answered, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, He will command his angels concerning you, and On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. Jesus said to him, Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (ESV)

The lies certainly come not just through dreams, etc. but through other people. We are tested and must use the word of God to fight against lies:

Ephesians 6:17 - and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, (ESV)

We have to learn the voice of God.

The Holy Spirit train us to learn the voice of God.

55.7 Born of Water and the Spirit

When a person is born-again of the Spirit, they receive the Spirit which helps them to forsake sin and it's really important to do so.

1 Peter 1:23 - since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (ESV)

1 John 5:18 - We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. (ESV)

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

Jeremiah 32:40 - I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And **I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.** (ESV)

I John 3:9 - No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

But I would much like my dream life to be like the following:

John 5:19 - So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

Whoever loves in the way Jesus loved us and the way Jesus commanded us has been born of God and knows God.

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Knowing God involves loving one another the way Jesus instructed us and we can get there by following Jesus' commandments:

John 8:19 - They said to him therefore, Where is your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also. (ESV)

I John 4:12 - No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (ESV)

Anyone who truly believes.

We must receive Jesus' words, walk in them and come to know in truth (we must truly know) that Jesus came from God.

John 17:8 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

Therefore, we should obey Jesus and arrive at the truth. Obedience is a part of faith. Like Abraham obeying God, or like Israel crossing through the Red Sea, it's obedience which leads to sure belief. And the obedience doesn't end.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (NASB)

I John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

I John 5:4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith.

I John 5:18 - We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

I feel like stopping sin is very important after being born again.

John 5:14 - Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.

55.8 Justification by faith for the both adherents of the law and the gentiles

Justification by faith is the correct teaching but the promise is for the gentiles AND the adherent of the law but they all must have faith, and pursuing the law as if by works is the problem, but pursuing the law by faith is ok.

Romans 7:22 - For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (ESV)

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, (ESV)

Romans 4:15-16 - For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring-not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (ESV)

55.9 Paul used the law to judge back, but without hypocrisy

Matthew 23:27 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.

Acts 23:3 - Then Paul said to him, God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?

55.10 Justified by God through faith [and works done in faith?]

All of these, for example, I believe belong under the umbrella of faith, not works:

- Taking communion is not 'dead works'. It's obedience.
- Getting baptised is not 'dead works'. It's obedience.
- Obeying Jesus Christ's commandments are not 'dead works'. It's obedience.

God will be the judge of who has had faith in Jesus, and who has obeyed Him.

55.10.1 God is the one who justifies

Romans 8:33 - Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Romans 8:30 - And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (ESV)

But repentance is a work of the heart which is an act of faith. I believe repentance is inseparable from faith because intrinsic to faith is belief and intrinsic to belief is metanoia (changing one's mind).

At its most basic form repentance (metanoia) means a person changes their mind to believe and trust and have a heart of obedience - accepting of the will of God. To repent means **stop distrusting and start trusting God**.

We have believe Jesus and to trust Jesus. When Jesus says He is the Son of God, we must believe it because we trust Him. Likewise when He commands us to repent from sinning we should agree with Jesus and be obedient:

John 16:8-9 - And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: **concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;** (ESV)

We need to heed Jesus' warning that we need to change our minds or perish. We have to stop believing falsehood and believe the truth, believe/trust Jesus and Jesus' words:

Luke 13:3 - No, I tell you; but unless you repent (3340. metanoeó), you will all likewise perish. (ESV)

We keep eyes on Jesus and trust Him:

Hebrews 12:2 - looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (ESV)

Isaiah 12:2 - Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. (ESV)

Most importantly we must believe in Jesus as the Son of God and the Messiah who, being innocent, paid the price for their sin through His broken body and shed blood on the cross - a perfect and eternal offering; that He died there but God resurrected Him, and He is Lord of Heaven and Earth, and has a heart of obedience to the will of God, wanting to do the will of God, which involves their sanctification.

We must honour Jesus.

But I believe we are forgiven to forgive others. That must be part of the act of faith and the change of heart, I think.

Matthew 6:15 - but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (ESV)

55.10.2 We have been saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved

- simplybible.com: Saved in Three Tenses

We have been saved (when we believed):

II Timothy 1:9 - who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, (ESV)

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

We are being saved:

I Corinthians 1:18 - For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (ESV)

II Corinthians 2:15 - For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, (ESV)

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

We shall be saved:

Romans 5:9-10 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (ESV)

Romans 13:11 - Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:14 - who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

Being born-again certainly involves being born-again to a living hope. It seems to me that I'm awaiting salvation currently. I've been born-again to a living hope, and I'm still awaiting a future salvation, and I'm waiting for Jesus. And during that time, I'm trying to purify my soul by obedience to the Truth:

I Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

55.10.3 Justified by faith alone. But faith is substantiated by works, Jesus' works which is entirely sufficient and Jesus working in us even by our obedience

We must "walk in the light" (love in the truth, love in the light, love in actuality, from the heart). We can't love in truth while denying Christ, for example (John 3:14-19, I John 4:1-3). And we can't love in the truth while hating our family in Christ (I John 3:14-20). We love because God loved us first (I John 4:6-19). Loving in the truth also means that it is out of faith in the truth (Romans 14:23), out of sincere love for God (I Corinthians 16:22), endeavouring to do what God wants us to do, seeking to please God (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 8:3-10, Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 1:1-10), in the truth (accepting God loved us first, II John 1:1-3), unlike a whitewashed-wall Pharisee who doesn't do their works from a *truly* obedient heart (I Peter 2:6-9). Good deeds come out of sincerely obeying Jesus Christ out of faith in Him. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us and He commanded us to love our family in Christ as a must. We must love our family in Christ. The deeds will come from a genuine love in the truth from the heart:

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:12 - Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. (ESV)

No joke, we **must** take care of our family in Christ who are in need. That is a must. Be the good Samaritan to our family in Christ when they need our help. If a person knows what good he ought to do and doesn't do it then for that person it is sin. If we are to love in truth then when we know what good we ought to do, we should then be doing it:

James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a **brother or sister** is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

I tend to agree with James on this. Eliminating works from faith is not good.

Works:

- obedience
 - keeping God's commandments
- faithfulness
 - trust
 - fear of God
 - response of love
 - thankfulness
 - praise

- forgiving others
- humility
 - keeping God's commandments
- patient endurance (time)

We're sure that we abide in Christ **while** we are keeping His commandments:

I John 2:1-6 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And **by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.** Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but **whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.** By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

If a person is trusting/believing (verb) that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God then they abide in Christ:

I John 4:16 - So **we have come to know and to believe** the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

If a person hates their brother they don't have eternal life:

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must also** love his brother. (ESV)

I John 3:15 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (ESV)

If a person loves one another, they have been born of God:

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

We need to have love for one another to be saved as we believe in Jesus to be saved.

How can a person believe without having a heart that trusts Jesus? How can a person have life without a relationship with God?

A relationship involves more than just 'belief', but I'm quite sure it also means being a conduit of Christ's love.

II Timothy 2:19 - But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: **The Lord knows those who are his,** and, Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity. (ESV)

If a person does not have obedience, trust and repentance from sin, but their faith has belief, then they only abide in Jesus extremely precariously, and also that person's 'faith' probably won't receive much at all from God.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (ESV)

Hebrews 11 describes faith. We must live by faith:

Hebrews 10:37-39 - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Our faith must be sound. We must believe and have assurance in the Truth:

Titus 2:1-2 - But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. (ESV)

Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ. Christ's words are Absolute Truth, therefore, as we believe them, it increases our faith:

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing through the word of Christ.** (ESV)

With faith we believe what God's Word tells us:

Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.** For by it the people of old received their commendation. **By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God,** so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (ESV)

We walk by faith, not by sight:

II Corinthians 5:7 - for we **walk by faith,** not by sight. (ESV)

Faith in the Truth naturally produces evidence of the faith, as a person is believing the Truth, and operating in the Truth, people should be able to recognise it:

James 2:18 - But someone will say, You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (ESV)

The object of our faith is Jesus, who is the Truth:

Revelation of John 14:12 - Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (ESV)

The Truth is that we know we can ask God for things, then by faith we can ask from God and await to receive:

James 1:6 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (ESV)

Faith in Jesus is something we aim to keep our entire lives:

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (ESV)

Philippians 2:16 - holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

The rhema word of God:

Hebrews 5:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (ESV)

What is the rhema word? | GotQuestions.org

Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (ESV)

We should put our faith in God:

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, **Have faith in God.**

I put a bunch of concepts together to describe faith:

1 Faith-in-God = Hope-from/in-God * Work/Love/Walking-By-Faith
2
3 Hope-from/in-God = Belief(believing God) * Truth(God's word is Truth, Jesus is the Truth)
4
5 Work/Love/Walking-By-Faith = Obedience * Faithfulness * Fear-of-God * Response-of-love-to-Jesus *
6
7 Obedience = Submitting to the Righteousness of God * Turning from sin, loving, showing mercy, etc
8
9 Fear-of-God = e.g. The poor in spirit recognise their need of God's mercy and tremble at His Word
10 Fear of God is not only about having the heart to repent from sin and "beat hand on
11 endeavoring to please Christ with our actions.
12 godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret
13
14 Response-of-love-to-Jesus = e.g. praise, thankfulness, obeying His commandments
15
16 Love is proportional-to the baggage which has been forgiven
17 Love forgiven-baggage
18
19 Obedience Love
20
21 F = H * L
22
23 Faith-in-God when tested by God is found to be true Faith in God.
24 Faith-in-God must submit to the Righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ,
25 Jesus Christ having paid the price of sin, enabling a relationship with God.

These things are factors of faith.

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

God is the judge.

When we do what Jesus says, it's as if Jesus is working through us. We are like a man building a house, but it is actually the Lord Jesus building it. A person must/should **do** what Jesus said:

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you **what he is like: he is like** a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

Psalms 127:1 - Unless the **Lord builds the house**, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Matthew 7:24-27 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (ESV)

1 : 4102 pistis pis'-tis
2
3 from 3982; persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious
4 truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially
5 reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such
6 profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth
7 itself:—assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.
8 see GREEK for 3982

Galatians 2:15 - "We are Jews (G2453 Ioudaios) by nature (G5449 phusis) and not sinners (G268 hamartolos) from among (G1537 ek) the Gentiles (G1484 ethnos);

Justified *through (G1223 dia) faith (G4102 pistis) in Christ.*

Galatians 2:16 - nevertheless (G1161 de) knowing (G3609 oikeios) that a man (G444 anthropos) is not justified (G1344 dikaioo) by the works (G2041 ergon) of the Law (G3551 nomos) but through (G1223 dia) faith (G4102 pistis) in Christ (G5547 Christos) Jesus (G2424 Iesous), even (G2532 kai) we have believed (G4100 pisteuo) in Christ (G5547 Christos) Jesus (G2424 Iesous), so (G2443 hina) that we may be justified (G1344 dikaioo) by faith (G4102 pistis) in Christ (G5547 Christos) and not by the works (G2041 ergon) of the Law (G3551 nomos); since (G3754 hoti) by the works (G2041 ergon) of the Law (G3551 nomos) no (G3756 ou) (G3956 pas) flesh (G4561 sarx) will be justified (G1344 dikaioo).

Justified through (G1223 dia) faith (G4102 pistis) in Christ (G5547 Christos) Jesus (G2424 Iesous). Pistis is a strong word for faith that doesn't merely encapsulate belief, but it includes trust.

The Greeks can turn the noun faith into the verb believing faith (G4100 pisteuo). It's not the noun 'believe' as the root of the verb faith

we have believed (G4100 pisteuo) in Christ means we have '**faithed**' in Christ.

The 'believing faith' verb pisteuo has a root of faith (pistis).

Faith is a relationship with God. Before Abraham believed God, he obeyed God. Faith requires belief but it's more than belief.

I Timothy 4:1: But the Spirit (G4151 pneuma) explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith (G4102 pistis), paying attention to deceitful spirits (G4151 pneuma) and doctrines of demons (G1140 daimonion), (NASB)

Faith is ongoing. Ongoing faith is patience endurance. Jesus says patience endurance is a work.

Revelation of John 2:19 - I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

55.10.4 Paul here mentions trust even for the one who trusts in Him who justifies the ungodly

Romans 4:2 - For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

Paul doesn't deny that Abraham could have been justified by works, but he claims that Abraham doesn't have anything to boast about before God.

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

So Paul says that for someone who does not have any works but trusts Him who justifies the ungodly, the person's trusting faith is counted as righteousness.

AMEN!! God is good for justifying people who are poor of spirit, and have fear of God.

55.11 Conditional Promises In The New Testament

The Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5 may better be understood as describing the transformation that happens when we are born-again.

The resources to be transformed are not in ourselves. Jesus does the transformation.

We yield our life to Lord Jesus Christ, and our life doesn't lose control when we yield control over it to Jesus.

We should be able to see the transformation described in the sermon of the mount.

I consider the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God to be synonymous. The word 'Kingdom' is used here without distinction between of God or of Heaven. It's the same thing, I think:

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV)

Luke 18:16 - But Jesus called them to him, saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Matthew 19:14 - but Jesus said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

This is another example of a conditional promise:

Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first **commandment with a promise**), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. (ESV)

If anyone loves Jesus, they will keep His word, and Father God will love them, and Father God and Jesus Christ, Son of God will come to them and make our home with them:

John 14:22-23 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

55.11.1 The kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are poor in spirit

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Condition: Those who are poor in spirit Promise: They will inherit the kingdom of Heaven

youtube.com: Why The Kingdom of Heaven Is Only For THESE People In Matthew 5:1-10 | Jason Cam

The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who spiritually are desperate for God to satisfy the longing of their soul. It's to have an impoverished spirit. It's to be humbly aware and recognize that that deficiency and to bring that to God.

55.11.2 The kingdom of God goes to those who are poor in the world

God has mercy on people who are poor by worldly standards to reveal to them the Kingdom of God, and God works amongst the materially poor:

Luke 6:20 - And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the **kingdom of God**. (ESV)

Condition: Those who are poor Promise: They will be rich in faith and inherit the kingdom of God

55.11.3 Those who love God will be heirs of the kingdom of God

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (ESV)

Condition: **Those who love God** Promise: They will be heirs of the kingdom of God

55.11.4 Those who mourn shall be comforted

Matthew 5:4 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (ESV)

Condition: **Those who mourn** Promise: They will be comforted

55.11.5 Those who are meek shall inherit the earth

Matthew 5:5 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (ESV)

Condition: **For the gentle, humble and/or meek** Promise: They will be inherit the Earth

55.11.6 The kingdom of heaven goes to people who are persecuted for righteousness' sake

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for **theirs** is the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Condition: **It's those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness** Promise: The Kingdom of Heaven will be theirs.

55.11.7 Those who are persecuted for the sake of Jesus will receive a great reward

Matthew 5:11-13 - Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the **salt of the earth**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. (ESV)

I Peter 2:19-22 - For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (ESV)

The "salt of the earth" are the disciples of Jesus:

- distinct from worldliness - a distinct 'taste'
 - standing up for the Truth in word and deed. Gracious speech without saltiness might be without resisting/challenging/correcting/rebuking error, for example.
 - * **Colossians 4:6** - Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (ESV)
 - light in the darkness
- We are to be 'salted' in Him, so we are to be corrected and sanctified by Him
- Jesus preserves us

- the salt of the earth helps to preserve the earth?

Ignatius to the Magnesians 10 - Let us not, therefore, be insensible to His kindness. For were He to reward us according to our works, we should cease to be. Therefore, **having become His disciples, let us learn to live according to the principles of Christianity**. For whosoever is called by any other name besides this, is not of God. Lay aside, therefore, the evil, the old, the sour leaven, and be ye changed into the new leaven, which is Jesus Christ. Be ye **salted** in Him, lest any one among you should be corrupted, since *by your savour ye shall be convicted*. It is absurd to profess Christ Jesus, and to Judaize. For Christianity did not embrace Judaism, but Judaism Christianity, that so every tongue which believeth might be gathered together to God.

People may take offense to disciples of Jesus as they did to Jesus, but we should still remain 'salty', which would predictably offend some people while it hasn't lost its taste, and it's desirable for Jesus' disciples to be set apart for God, and distinct the world.

Matthew 11:6 - And blessed is the one who is not offended by me. (ESV)

John 15:18 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (ESV)

We are all salted (cleaned, corrected in word and deed) with fire. The fire is purifying and I feel like there is tribulation and testing as a result of this purification. Don't resist the cleaning or there will be eternal tribulation of fire:

Mark 9:47-50 - And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched. For **everyone will be salted with fire**. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. (ESV)

Does that mean that the baptism of fire that Jesus baptizes with helps to purify us? I think that is probably the case. We must not resist the Holy Spirit's work, and we should be salted by Jesus:

Luke 3:16 - John answered them all, saying, I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (ESV)

Condition: If people revile and persecute you for Jesus' sake and your faith in Him **Promise:** The Son of Man (Jesus) will reward you in Heaven and the reward will be great

Song youtube.com: I Asked The Lord by John Newton - Indelible Grace

Song youtube.com: I Asked the Lord that I Might Grow | Hymn by John Newton | 2 Corinthians 12 : 7-10

II Corinthians 12:7-10 - So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (ESV)

55.11.8 Those who are not offended by Jesus are blessed

Matthew 11:6 - And blessed is the one who is not offended by me. (ESV)

Condition: If you are not offended by Jesus **Promise:** You are blessed.

55.11.9 If you ask, it will be given to you. If you seek, you will find. If you knock, it will be opened to you

Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (ESV)

Condition	Promise
If you ask	It will be given you
If you seek	You will find
If you knock	It will be opened to you

Jeremiah 29:13-14 - You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (ESV)

55.11.10 The end coming and the gospel of the kingdom being proclaimed

Matthew 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (ESV)

Condition: When the Gospel has been preached to all nations in the whole world. Promise: The end (eschaton) will come.

55.11.11

Matthew 24:45-47 - Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. (ESV)

Condition: If that person is faithful and wise in charge of the "little things" Promise: God will make a person ruler over all that is His (His possessions).

55.11.12

Mark 9:41 - For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. (ESV)

Condition: Giving a cup of water (being charitable) in Christ's name for the exact reason that we belong to Christ Promise: A person will not lose their reward.

55.11.13 If we are trusting in Jesus Christ, we will not perish

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)

Condition: To whosoever will have faith in the true God by being faithful to His Son Promise: You will have eternal life

Stress: Trust in God.

55.11.14 When God is for us, no one can be against us

Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (ESV)

Condition: When God is for you. Promise: No one can be against you.

55.11.15

Philippians 3:20-21 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

Philippians 4:1 - Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. (ESV)

Condition: If we stand firm in the Lord **Promise:** Jesus will transform our current perishing bodies in exchange for a body that does not perish like His glorious body (Resurrection body)

55.11.16

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (ESV)

Condition: If Christ strengthens us **Promise:** We can do all things.

55.11.17

Colossians 3:1-4 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (ESV)

Condition: If we too are risen or raised up in Christ, and seeking the things above **Promise:** When Christ appears at the second coming, we will appear with Him in glory.

55.11.18

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 - For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (ESV)

Condition: If we have faith that Jesus died and rose again. **Promise:** The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are still alive will be called up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. We will then be with the Lord forever after that.

55.11.19

II Timothy 4:6-9 - For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon.

Condition: Those who have loved His appearing and faithfully preach the Gospel and the Word of God **Promise:** There is a crown of righteousness laid up for us by God which I will be awarded with on my day of glory.

55.11.20

Hebrews 12:28 - Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, (ESV)

Condition: If we serve Him with reverence and fear. Promise: We will serve God acceptably.

55.11.21

James 1:5-6 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (ESV)

Condition: If you ask of God in faith. Promise: Wisdom will be given.

55.11.22

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (ESV)

Condition: If we endure trials by temptation and love the Lord. Promise: We will receive the crown of life

55.11.23

1 Peter 5:1-4 - So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (ESV)

Condition: If they feed the flock God has given them, by taking the oversight of the flock willingly and Promise: Elders will receive a crown of glory that will not fade.

55.11.24

1 John 3:2 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (ESV)

Condition: If we are children of God Promise: When Jesus appears we will be like Him

55.11.25

1 John 3:9 - No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (ESV)

Condition: If/because we have been born of God Promise: A Christian cannot habitually sin without feeling horrible and wishing to repentant of it.

55.11.26

2 John 1:7-8 - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. (ESV)

Condition: If we acknowledge that Jesus has indeed come in the flesh (incarnate). Promise: We will receive our full reward from God.

55.11.27

Revelation 2:7 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (ESV)

Condition: If we persevere over evil and endure for Christ's namesake and overcome (persecution and trials)

Promise: We will be allowed to eat from the Tree of Life which is in the paradise of God

55.11.28

Revelation 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)

Condition: If we are faithful to the point of death. **Promise:** Jesus Himself will give you a crown of life.

55.11.29

Revelation 2:11 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death. (ESV)

Condition: If we overcome persecution and trials **Promise:** We will not be hurt by the second death which is damnation in the Lake of Fire

55.11.30

Revelation 2:17 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it. (ESV)

Condition: If we overcome persecution and trials **Promise:** Jesus will allow us to eat of the hidden Manna and will give a us white stone with a new name written on it that only the one that receives it will know.

55.11.31

Revelation 2:23 - and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. (ESV)

Condition: According to their works. **Promise:** Jesus will give to every one.

55.11.32

Revelation 2:26-28 - The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. (ESV)

Condition: To those that overcome and keep Jesus' works until the bitter end **Promise:** Jesus will give power over the nations and will give the morning star

55.11.33

Revelation 3:21 - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (ESV)

Condition: To those that overcome persecution and trials. **Promise:** Jesus will allow people to sit with Him on His throne

55.11.34

Revelation 20:4 - Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (ESV)

Condition: Those that did not worship the beast, nor his image, nor received his mark (666) **Promise:** Some will live and reign with Christ for 1000 years.

55.12 Body without spirit is dead. But I think the spirit without the body is still alive

James 2:26 - For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Matthew 22:32 - I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.

Mark 12:27 - He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.

Luke 20:38 - Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.

Yet we await an imperishable body.

55.13 Forgiveness and ongoing sin

I Corinthians 9:25-27 - Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, **lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.**

55.13.1 New covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, Know the LORD, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (ESV)

I'm confident that God gives a person a new life in Christ Jesus, where God has totally forgiven their past sin, but expects them to turn a new leaf and turn away from sin.

1 Peter 1:18-20 - knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, (ESV)

We **must** have faith in Jesus for the righteousness of God that comes by faith.

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Jesus is our High Priest:

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk** not according to the flesh but **according to the Spirit.** (ESV)

Jesus condemned sin in the flesh. Now we walk according to the spirit so that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us - doing no harm to our neighbour:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

It's still really important to put a stop to sin, and show no partiality as we love our neighbour as ourselves, doing no harm to our neighbour and bearing one another's burdens!

James 2:1 - My brothers, show no partiality **as you hold the faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Grace given through faith alone is not license to sin, but the power of salvation to be corrected, healed and brought into obedience to God, and into loving God and your neighbour.

55.13.2 We must seek to stop sinning after receiving the 'big forgiveness' for past sin

Matthew 12:33 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

Repentance leads to the knowledge of the truth, and ceasing to do the devil's will:

II Timothy 2:24-26 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them **repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.** (ESV)

The blood of Jesus washes us as we walk in the light:

I John 1:6-7 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

We must walk in the light of the truth, including agape (treasuring) loving your family in Christ. If we do not walk in the light then the blood of Jesus doesn't "continue" cleansing you.

I John 2:11-12 - But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. (ESV)

Former sins are cleansed. Then we continue walking in the truth, practicing love for future sins to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Yes, the blood of Jesus cleanses our sins, but for future application of the blood of Jesus, we need to be walking in the light.

We must cease to do the devil's will:

Hebrews 10:26-31 - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has **outraged the Spirit of grace?** For we know him who said, Vengeance is mine; I will repay. And again, The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (ESV)

We are cleansed from our former sins and we must forsake sin, stop obeying it, turn away from sin, and from the corruption in the world, and instead follow Jesus to be provided an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

II Peter 1:1-11 - Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to **supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was **cleansed from his former sins.** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our debt was cancelled:

Colossians 2:11-15 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (ESV)

We **must** stop willfully sinning after the big forgiveness and we do this as we instead turn to serve Jesus, and we continue to confess (G3670 homologeó) and repent from sin thereafter if we commit it:

II Peter 2:20-22 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.

55.13.3 We totally *should* seek to stop sinning, since we await a place without sinning

II Peter 3:13-14 - But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Mark 10:19 - You know the commandments: Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother. (ESV)

1 John 3:4-9 - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (ESV)

If Israel had pursued the Mosaic law by faith they would have reached the righteousness of God.

Romans 9:30-32 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? **Because they did not pursue it by faith**, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,

This is prophetic - the attitude we are called to is the same today as it was back then:

Deuteronomy 10:12-15 - And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.

Circumcise your heart and do not be stubborn:

Deuteronomy 10:16-17 - Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

55.13.4 The 'all time' means we can still approach Jesus for forgiveness for future sins

Hebrews 10:12 - But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Where Ryan says "future obedience doesn't fix past wrongdoings 31:10 " The bible says,

I John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 *homologeó*) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

I Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)

I John 2:11-12 - But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. (ESV)

Past sins are forgiven when we believe on Jesus' name, Christ, Son of God.

Acts 10:43-45 - To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. (ESV)

II Peter 1:9 - For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. (ESV)

I John 3:13-17 - Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

Assuming you are following Jesus, then when we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. I've heard people say we only need to confess (G3670 homologeó) our sin, but we also need to be following Jesus / walking in the light. Repentance is still totally about changing our ways from wickedness to obedience.

This is why you can't say that obedience to Jesus is "dead works". It's just not right. The future sinning is paid for but we must walk in the light, confessing our sin and having love for our family in Christ in order to be cleaned with Jesus' blood. Well, Jesus is our Lord, so we just serve Him sincerely and He will take care of the rest.

55.13.5 If we sin

1 John 1:9 - If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)

56 Personally judging sin

John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. (ESV)

John 7:24 - Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment. (ESV)

56.1 We should always discern what is right on our own initiative

Luke 12:57 - "And why do you not even on your own initiative judge what is right?"

56.2 We should be examining, judging, cleaning ourselves up, taking a look in the mirror first

Judge yourself first (by God's standards) before judging others.

Clean yourself up first before the Lord judges you (in this world) - the Lord judges a believer while this world to discipline them and clean them up before final judgement.

It's suppressing the truth by a person's wickedness which is the judgement. OK, so then people who do sinful stuff suppress the truth and it's this suppression of the truth which incurs the wrath of God.

Romans 1:17-18 - For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. (engbsb2020eb)

I know this is talking specifically about taking communion, but I believe it applies also at the macroscopic level.

I Corinthians 11:28-32 - But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

I Corinthians 4:5 - Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. (ESV)

God looks at the heart:

II Corinthians 5:10-12 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commanding ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (ESV)

Make yourself ready imminently:

Matthew 24:42-44 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

Matthew 7:3 - Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

II Corinthians 7:1 - Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves (G1438 heautou) from all (G3956 pas) defilement of flesh (G4561 sarx) and spirit (G4151 pneuma), **perfecting holiness in the fear of God** (G2316 theos).

Revelation of John 22:14 - Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (ESV)

I hold myself accountable to the standard which I subscribe to.

I Corinthians 9:27 - But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

I try to keep the 10 commandments by faith. I observe the Mosaic law, and try to keep parts of it by faith, particularly on the topic of sexual morality, body markings, etc.

56.3 It is necessary sometimes to judge others, but do it properly

We are fine to rebuke family in Christ who sin:

Luke 17:3-4 - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, I repent, you must forgive him. (ESV)

We are to hate sin. Jude says we can hate sin and the product of sin whilst showing mercy to them, and we show mercy with fear (the fear of God):

Jude 1:20-23 - But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. (ESV)

There are limits to judging fellow believers. There are things which are OK to judge others on (practicing wickedness), and there are things which are not OK to judge others on (matters of opinion over things which are not explicitly sinful):

Romans 14:1-23 - As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

We should certainly avoid judging others. But we keep our own selves accountable to God, not try to keep others accountable to God. Judge for our own sake. We don't judge who we deem to be our brother/neighbour:

James 4:11-12 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (ESV)

But Jesus is the ultimate judge and judges His servants:

II Chronicles 6:22-23 - If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath and comes and swears his oath before your altar in this house, then hear from heaven and act and judge your servants, repaying the guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness. (ESV)

Right judgement takes into consideration the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness:

Matthew 23:23 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. (ESV)

John 7:23-24 - If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment. (ESV)

Judging others with the law also makes yourself accountable to the law in the way you measured it:

Matthew 7:1 - Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

I don't hold others accountable to the same standard that I hold myself to.

For Gentile believers I'm with the Apostles on the following:

Acts 15:28-29 - For it has seemed good to **the Holy Spirit** and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

But I also would add that one should not bear false-witness or worship idols.

56.3.1 Here we go

I Corinthians 10:14-20 - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

56.4 I repent from being liberal and ever endorsing LGBT or idolatry

At first, to not judge that others wear clothes of the opposite sex seemed mostly harmless to me, but I feel like endorsing sinful, erroneous things, or annulling laws is not helpful in liberating people from sin.

56.4.1 Endorsing sinful things endorses people to become enslaved by sin / stuck in falsehood

Also, I feel as though endorsing it is in a way similar to endorsing that people commit adultery, in that it gets people stuck in sin, even without the awareness they are in sin, and makes it harder for people to find God.

I feel like getting a person unstuck from sin is a bit like freeing an animal in that they are often not aware that they need freeing.

[youtube.com: Two men saving the life of a deer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJzXWzgkQHc)

56.4.2 Endorsing sinful behavior welcomes demons

Also, I believe that endorsing sinful behavior or annulling God's law allows people who do such things to come into one's life and situation - a bit like putting holes in a boat, or lowering the drawbridge to a castle.

Sin attracts demons:

Matthew 12:44-45 - Then it says, I will return to my house from which I came. And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation. (ESV)

youtube.com: How To Expel The Enemy | Basics Of Deliverance Pt. 2 | Derek Prince @time: 15 min 33 sec
It's spiritual, so I think it may actually welcome demons into a person's life to endorse sinful things.

Deuteronomy 7:26 - And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction. (ESV)

56.4.3 Personal holiness

I Corinthians 9:27 - But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Well, I repent of endorsing sinful things, which are explicitly mentioned in old testament law, such as transvestism.

I no longer think that in order to be compassionate I must say "I do not judge." But if someone were to ask me if I think it is sinful, I would say, "I believe it is sinful."

I pursue personal holiness for myself, and I think deliberate lawbreaking is wrong, but I stress I am not **under** the Mosaic law.

I'm under the law of faith in Christ and I believe LGBT and transvestism are sinful.

Deuteronomy 22:5 - A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God. (ESV)

57 The law of liberty

James 1:25 - But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

James 2:11-13 - For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

57.1 The Torah isn't contrary to the promises of God, including justification by faith

The law doesn't save:

Galatians 3:21-24 - Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. (ESV)

The law doesn't save:

Hebrews 7:19-20 - On the one hand, a **former commandment** is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the **law made nothing perfect**); but *on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.* (ESV)

II John 1:4-6 - I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And **this is love, that we walk according to his commandments;** this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

57.2 Submitting to God is submitting to Christ

Psalms 81:11 - But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 5:23 - For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

I Corinthians 11:3 - But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (ESV)

Submit to God

- Listen to God
- Walk in His ways

Psalms 81:11-13 - But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! (ESV)

Serve God:

II Chronicles 30:8 - Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve the LORD your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. (ESV)

57.3 The freedom Christ gives us involves obeying Christ

Sermon youtube.com: Christian Submission - John Piper

Obeying Jesus, even Jesus' commandments, is actually freedom. To disobey Jesus is to submit to slavery.

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

Galatians 2:4-5 - Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. (ESV)

This really says it all. We die to the law of Moses but live to God. By the works of the law no one will be justified, but by faith in Jesus Christ we seek to be justified:

Galatians 2:16-19 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law **I died to the law, so that I might live to God.** (ESV)

Ephesians 5:24 - Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (ESV)

Quote from John Piper Submission does not mean agreeing with everything your husband says. Now you can see that right here in verse one she is a Christian [and] he is not a Christian. That is about as significant a disagreement as you can have they don't come any more significant there isn't any bigger issue in the world than whether Jesus is Lord and they don't agree on it. Peter calls this wife to submission assuming she will not submit to her husband's ideas about the most important thing in the world, God. So there's lesson number one. Submission does not mean agreeing with everything your husband thinks. Number two, submission does not mean leaving your mind or your will at the wedding altar; It's not the inability to think for yourself as a woman or to will for yourself.

Romans 8:21 - that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (ESV)

II Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (ESV)

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

Don't think that obeying Jesus is submitting to slavery.

We are bondservants of Christ and it is freedom.

Romans 1:1 - Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

57.4 We are no longer 'under' the Mosaic Law but we have freedom as we are led by the Spirit

Galatians 2:3-5 - But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. If you are disobedient to God then you are under the Law.

Galatians 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

- youtube.com: Jesus, All For Jesus - Robin Mark - Revival From Belfast {@inchristalonejg}, Lyrics:: Jesus, all for Jesus, All I am and have and ever hope to be. Jesus, all for Jesus, All I am and have and ever hope to be.

All of my ambitions, hopes and plans I surrender these into Your hands. All of my ambitions, hopes and plans I surrender these into Your hands.

For it's only in Your will that I am free, For it's only in Your will that I am free, Jesus, all for Jesus, All I am and have and ever hope to be.

Being led by the spirit, trying to fulfill the law, a person would be trying to do no wrong to their neighbour. Fulfilling the law, a person would be doing no wrong to their neighbour:

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

I Peter 2:16 - Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

Galatians 5:1 - For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

II Peter 2:19 - They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

57.5 Submitting to God's righteousness involves obeying Jesus because Jesus is God's righteousness

Romans 10:3 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

58 Both God the Father and God the Son raise the dead

Both the Father and the Son give life to whom they will.

John 5:21 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. (ESV)

John 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

God gives life.

Deuteronomy 32:39 - See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. (ESV)

John 10:29 - My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

God the Father and God the Son are one:

John 10:30 - I and the Father are one.

God the Father raised this child from the dead:

I Kings 17:21-22 - Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord, O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again. And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.

God the Father raised this child from the dead too:

2 Kings 4:32-35 - When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the LORD. Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. (ESV)

God the Father raised Jesus from the dead:

Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (ESV)

God gave authority to Jesus to raise the dead:

John 17:2 - since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. (ESV)

Jesus raises people from the dead:

John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (ESV)

Luke 7:13-15 - And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, Do not weep. Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, Young man, I say to you, arise. And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

People recognised Jesus as a great prophet like Elijah or Elisha

Luke 7:16 - Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, A great prophet has arisen among us! and God has visited his people!

Jesus was doing the works of Father God:

John 10:37-38 - If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.

Who can question it?

Acts 26:8 - Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead? (ESV)

58.1 Leaving the tomb / spiritual prison (Sheol/Hades / the bad place in Sheol/Hades) which was a result of disobedience

Romans 6:8-9 - Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Jesus as a life-giving spirit proclaimed to the spirits in prison (Sheol/Hades):

John 5:25 - Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (ESV)

I Peter 4:6 - For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. (ESV)

Baptism is an appeal to God for a good conscience - It's an **appeal** to God but not strictly required to be saved. It is an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We appeal to God for a good conscience with Him, asking God to partake in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God circumcises our heart, and we are buried with Jesus in His death, our old man dies, and we walk in the newness of life - rise with Him in resurrection through faith in the powerful working of God:

I Peter 3:21-22 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (ESV)

Colossians 2:11-12 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (ESV)

Romans 6:4 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (ESV)

I definitely believe that "believer's baptism" is the right way to perform baptism:

Isaiah 7:14-16 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. (ESV)

Luke 2:48-52 - And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress. And he said to them, Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (ESV)

Mark 10:37-40 - And they said to him, Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory. Jesus said to them, You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized? And they said to him, We are able. And Jesus said to them, The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared. (ESV)

Baptism does save, but I believe it must be coupled with belief, and also **trust**, and I think that **obedience** comes from trust:

I Peter 3:18-21 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to **death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit**, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because **they formerly did not obey**, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Acts 19:4 - And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. (ESV)

Fear of God (wanting to please God doing His will), wanting a good conscience with God, and wanting to change from doing dead works to perform deeds which glorify Jesus obedient to His commandments - deeds in keeping with repentance - being zealous for good deeds, love issuing from a good conscience - and receiving Jesus' Holy Spirit to empower this resurrection life - this is the mind set we should have going into baptism:

I Peter 3:21 - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (ESV)

I believe a person **must** believe, and not just be baptised:

Acts 19:1-6 - And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, **Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?** And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. And he said, Into what then were you baptized? They said, Into John's baptism. And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus. On hearing this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. (ESV)

This sounds interesting:

John 5:28-29 - Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

It's totally worth following Jesus, doing good and proclaiming the gospel after getting born-again - following Jesus, even faithfully stopping sin, is the correct response, for if being born-again is dying with Christ, and being given life by the life giving Spirit of Jesus, we are partaking in the death and resurrection of Jesus, where Jesus had actually suffered for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, so we too should continue living in a way that is turning away from sin.

Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (ESV)

Romans 8:10 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Spiritually died with Christ:

Colossians 2:20 - If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—

Colossians 3:3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (ESV)

Spiritually raised with Christ:

Colossians 3:1 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

OK, so spiritually resurrected and raised. Now we wait for the resurrection of the body.
Things make a bit more sense now:

Matthew 19:16-26 - And behold, a man came up to him, saying, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The young man said to him, All these I have kept. What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Jesus is the Saviour of the world.

I John 4:14 - And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

John 12:46-48 - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. (ESV)

Isaiah 43:10-11 - You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.

God saves through Jesus.

Jude 1:25 - to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Titus 1:1-3 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

John 5:43 - I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

John 10:25 - Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of **the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

I Peter 3:19 - in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,

Romans 8:10 - If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

That was a total gift. Thanks Jesus!

So in this life we can know that we will partake in the resurrection at the second coming.

59 The resurrection at the second coming

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

59.1 So don't be in Adam, but be in Christ, because all in Christ will be made alive, but all in Adam will perish

1. Christ the firstfruits, then
2. at his coming those who belong to Christ.

I Corinthians 15:20-26 - But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive**. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then **at his coming** those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

59.2 What it looks like

Our heavenly inheritance is imperishable!

1 Peter 1:4 - to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (ESV)

59.2.1 The fiery trial and the rapture being contemporaneous

So long as I'm in the fiery trial I am currently in, will expect rapture as though it were imminent. Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation of John 22:20 - He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (ESV)

If the devil's been let loose to harass/afflict me ongoingly then I don't think it would be right to be forced to remain in the world:

John 17:15 - I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (ESV)

Revelation of John 12:10-12 - And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short! (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:7-8 - For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (ESV)

John Piper's explanation of the rapture I affirm but I don't hold it with complete certainty because to be quite honest, I just haven't had the time to study yet in great depth as I've been trying to focus on abiding in Jesus' commandments. When it comes to eschatology, I think there are some concrete things we ought to be doing which are relevant even in the "season of the rapture" or in the "season of the second-coming" of Jesus or perhaps contemporaneously such as needing to remain faithful to Jesus and trying to keep His works, his commandments, etc. And there are things we don't know for certain but still endeavour to be ready for:

- youtube.com: What Is the Rapture?

Matthew 24:36 - 'And concerning that day and the hour no one hath known—not even the messengers of the heavens—except my Father only; (YLT)

I'm a total believer in the rapture. In fact, I believe that a person can be raptured by faith. I really wouldn't mind being raptured today <2024-07-18 Thu>. The world lost its luster for me, and that is a good thing actually:

Hebrews 11:5 - By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. (ESV)

Revelation of John 3:10 - Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. (ESV)

I Peter 4:12 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (ESV)

Relief for believers and affliction for the disbelievers as one coming:

II Thessalonians 1:6-8 - since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (ESV)

II Thessalonians 2:1-3 - Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, (ESV)

Rapture:

I Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:20 - He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (ESV)

Amen! I'm waiting for that day. Also, I believe God can take me up any time if it's His will!

II Thessalonians 2:1-2 - Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. (ESV)

Acts 2:17-21 - And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This is still on its way:

Isaiah 13:9-13 - Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger. (ESV)

I believe Jesus will come for me, and rescue me from this evil world. This world is absolute filth and quite frankly I don't want to be in a world full of asymptotic greed, transhumanism, perversion, adultery and sexual immorality. Rapture me, Jesus, please!

I Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (ESV)

Revelation of John 22:20 - He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (ESV)

All of this has been fulfilled for me:

Luke 21:12-17 - But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. (ESV)

I need to stand strong and endure:

Luke 21:18-19 - But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. (ESV)

Here is where the world is currently at, I think:

Luke 21:20-24 - But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (ESV)

All things are possible for those who trust in God, trust in Jesus, trust God, trust the Only True God:

Mark 9:23 - And Jesus said to him, If you can! All things are possible for one who believes. (ESV)

59.2.2 The resurrection of the just

Luke 14:12-14 - He said also to the man who had invited him, When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. (ESV)

59.2.3 The natural first, then the spiritual

We may die a natural death in this life but be raised at the second coming with an incorruptible body.

I Corinthians 15:42-48 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.

Jesus can subject all things to Himself. By that power, Jesus will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body:

Philippians 3:20-21 - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

1 Corinthians 15:49 - Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (ESV)

59.2.4 This - we are made like the man of heaven

I Corinthians 15:49 - Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

AMEN!!

And then it's possible to inherit the imperishable:

I Corinthians 15:50 - I tell you this, brothers: **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

We need to be keepers of Jesus Christ's commandments to put on immortality:

Romans 2:5-11 - But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:51-54 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. (ESV)

59.2.5 The mortal puts on immortality (at the resurrection)

I Corinthians 15:53 - For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory.

Because truth is truth, it is imperishable. Our souls are purified as we obey the Truth - obey the Word of God - obey Jesus.

Our souls come out of darkness and into imperishable truth. The good news is the delivered account of everything Jesus said and did, and doesn't contradict. Jesus doesn't contradict Himself, so we can trust the word delivered through Jesus and the apostles. The most important parts have been recorded, and this is the good news, the gospel:

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (ESV)

Isaiah 25:8 - He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

We still serve but not under the old written code:

Romans 7:4-7 - Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order **that we may bear fruit for God**. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are **released from the law**, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve **not under the old written code** but in the new life of the Spirit. **What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means!** Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, You shall not covet. (ESV)

The Law still talks to us about what sin is like, but we are not under the old code, but we are now bound to Jesus and we should obey Him and try to fulfill the requirement of the law to love, but without condemnation. We still seek to obey God and keep the precepts of the Law but not with condemnation. We are under the Law of Christ now, we are bound to Jesus now.

We should pursue obedience to the Law of God, and not be tricked by the devil into thinking the Law is sin, or into disobedience. Being under the grace of God, and not "under the Law" doesn't mean turning our ear from the Law etc. or deliberately pursuing disobedience/ungodliness. The Law is fine, but we are bound to Christ, not the Law. We should certainly do our best to stop the ungodliness.

Psalms 119:142 - Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true (H571 emeth). (ESV)

youtube.com: Watch Him Change His Mind About THIS Widely Held View! {@OutsideTheCampHeb131}

Yeah, nor I. You know, that's my desire though. Yeah [it is to be] as much like Christ as you can. Exactly, and so that's what I believe that the gospel encourages, right? That the grace of God has appeared to all men teaching them to deny ungodliness and that He would redeem us from every lawless deed, and it's a process, right? As soon as we believe the gospel, now we're in the process of sanctification where He starts to remove things that we're so used. Yeah, like, it's like almost 90% of you has to go. Like you spend all your life developing into this person and and you're told this, and you're told that, and you become you know kind of like the product of everything around you, your parents teaching and this and that. To go like inwards and do away with a lot of the things you were taught, it's it's like, how do I say... the sanctification process is doing away with a lot of that. Like, the old you dies (Exactly.), and you become a new creature. (Exactly.) Like all the things, the way that you were before, it's no more, that person's dead. Yeah, so you're supposed to reckon yourself dead to the old man who was just bathing himself in sin, right? Drinking in iniquity like water and now we're to pursue righteousness, which is what 1 Timothy 6 says, right?

I Timothy 6:11-16 - But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (ESV)

...but you oh man of God flee these things like idolatry and covetousness love of money and pursue or follow after righteousness. And you know what Psalm 119 says? It says, my tongue shall speak of your word for all your commandments are righteousness.

So, literally what Paul is instructing believers is to pursue obedience to the law. That's something that contradicts the usual narrative in the Church which says Jesus did away from the did away with the law. You see what I'm saying? And this is kind of what I'm getting at here is that I go around and talk to pastors all the time and they tell me things like this, they'll agree with certain aspects.

Romans 8:1-7 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (ESV)

"ringing a bell ... like, there's no condemnation in Christ Jesus."

Like right, there isn't [any condemnation] right? Because if we are obeying him right then He's going to say, "Yes, this person really trusts in me. He has faith." He's showing his faith is not invalid but he's actually pursuing righteous behavior, which is what I John says, right?

I John 3:6-10 - No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

Isaiah 8:20 - To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. (ESV)

See how we come to repent from sin and into obeying God's Law (importantly the higher precepts of the law) even while "all things are lawful" (not being 'under' the Mosaic Law). The Mosaic Law is not our Master. Jesus Christ is our Master, but that doesn't mean the Mosaic Law is bad. And in following Jesus Christ, we should seek to believe on Jesus, the Christ, the Only Son of God, and obey His commandments.

I Corinthians 6:9-12 - Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived: **neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.** And such were some of you. **But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. **All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything.** (ESV)

Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (ESV)

Reading the following from Derek Prince now, I feel like I have more to say around it as I don't fully agree with everything Derek Prince says here. I'll annotate it:

youtube.com: The Free Gift Of Righteousness - Derek Prince {@propheticrevelationonline5009} @time:
Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in God's sight.

<2025-11-02 Sun>

Deeds/works and "doing" is different. We can be "doers" of the law of Christ, trusting and loving God, and loving one-another while resting from our works (i.e. deeds).

No one is ever going to be reckoned righteous before God by observation of the law - it's an impossibility. Rule it out. It'll never happen. For by the law is the knowledge of sin. The law was not given to make men righteous. The law was given to show men that they were sinners.

<2025-11-02 Sun>

This is true. It's not the hearers, but the doers who are righteous **Romans 2:13-16.**

First of all, the knowledge of sin. Secondly, to prove to them that they could not save themselves.

Thirdly, to point to the Savior who could save them. God never expected anybody to be made righteous by the keeping of the law but human nature is such that we will never accept the righteousness of God until we fail to establish our own righteousness.

<2025-11-02 Sun>

When talking about human nature here, I think that's just speculation. While what he says might be correct, I don't see where that's rooted in Scripture.

Actually, I think that what in reality was going on is that the people who trusted God and Moses in reality would have trusted Jesus. So if a person had authentic faith and love for God while observing the Mosaic Law then they would also naturally receive Jesus Christ when presented with Jesus, Jesus' teachings and Jesus' deeds.

John 5:42-47 - But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

No one will ever get saved by God who has not first come to the end of his own efforts to save himself.

<2025-11-02 Sun>

I think we need to receive the Kingdom like children of God;

Luke 18:16-22 - But Jesus called them to him, saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

Walk (behave) like children of God, like God is our Father:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

So God has to let everybody in one way or another, go through the law, come to the end of the law, see that the law is not the way to righteousness, and then turn to God for his grace.

<2025-11-02 Sun>

Well actually, Jesus is the end (telos) of the Law. I think that Derek Prince might be interpreting the word for "end" incorrectly here. If someone came to the telos of the Law they would have arrived at Jesus.

It always is. So it was so with God's people Israel as a whole and it's true of every person who ever comes into God's grace they only come to Salvation when they come to the conclusion that they cannot save themselves and the problem with religious people is it often takes them years and years and years to discover that they cannot save themselves. They cannot make themselves righteous, and indeed many religious people alas never make that discovery.

<2025-11-02 Sun>

I think in reality, by trusting in God's conditional promises, we can be saved through God's strength. So we don't "save ourselves by ourselves". But I do believe that genuine effort does entail repentance.

Ezekiel 18:31-32 - Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

But the issue really is that when we rest from our works, we don't rest from love and faith. So resting from our works doesn't mean we become disobedient. So even when resting from our works, we retain our obedience to God:

Hebrews 4:9-10 - So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (ESV)

So in resting from our works, we remain ready and prepared to do good works opportunistically (as they are given to us, as keeping a good conscience with God would require them to be done).

We'll go on reading verse 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the Prophets. It's not contrary to the Law and the prophets. The Law and the Prophets in various different ways testify to the fact that God would make righteousness available without the demands of the Law. Verse 22: even the righteousness of God, notice that? That's a key phrase, the righteousness of God. This is what we are talking about this morning. Not our own righteousness but the righteousness of God. Many people quote Matthew 6:33 for provision but they don't realize what's said in the beginning of it. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and what, His righteousness. And when you have His righteousness all these things shall be added unto thee. But many, many churchy people are seeking their own righteousness and asking God to add his blessing to that. He will not do it. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. All right? Verse 22: even the righteousness which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe. For there is no difference. There's no difference between the Lutheran, the Baptist, the Muslim, the Jew, it doesn't matter between any race. There is no difference. There's only one way of righteousness, and that way is by faith of Jesus Christ. It's offered to all who will do one thing: believe. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. You know, I'm ashamed of the many years when all I could preach on was Romans 3:23, and many, many good fundamentalists have never got beyond. Amazing enough, Jesus did not go through the world telling people they were sinners. Have you ever realized that? Second Corinthians 5 says God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing unto them their trespasses. Jesus didn't go around telling people they were sinners. You know why? Because when they met Jesus they didn't need to be told. And the Scripture says further on in 2 Corinthians 5, God has committed unto us the same ministry of reconciliation. We are not called to go wrong making people feel guilty, it's not our job. All right, we're going back to Romans 3:23,24. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God being justified freely.

In other words, we need faith in Jesus and we should continue to maintain our faith in Jesus and a good conscience and to endeavour to fulfill the requirement of the Law.

I John 3:21-23 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience**. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (ESV)

Romans 8:4 - in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (ESV)

If a person professing to be a Christian is not bearing the burdens of Christians who have their breastplate of righteousness on (holding a love of the truth in their hearts, striving for obedience to Christ), then they would not be fulfilling the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

I do not think that we are called to bear the burdens of people who hate God, while neglecting bearing the burdens of our own family in Christ. In fact, I think that doing so might incur God's wrath against the unfaithful/disobedient so-called Christian:

II Chronicles 19:2 - But Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:2 - I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and **how you cannot bear** (**G941 bastazó , to bear, carry, endure, support**) **with those who are evil**, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. (ESV)

All of us have a duty to keep God's commandments for us, (notably Christ's commandments). The strong [of faith, of obedience, at keeping God's commandments] are obligated to bear with the failings of those who are weak [of faith, of obedience, at keeping God's commandments]. So we should be supporting one another to live in a way that is pleasing to God:

Romans 15:1-4 - We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me. For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (ESV)

Colossians 3:13-14 - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)

59.2.6 Victory over sin and death through Jesus

Jesus is our Lord and Master, not sin. Being under grace means we have been forgiven and now present ourselves as slaves of Righteousness, obeying Jesus:

Romans 6:9-14 - Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (KJV)

We should be obedient slaves of Righteousness (slaves of Jesus). If you're not enslaved to Christ you're enslaved to something else - either yourself or to sin or to the world or to satan. I realise that word 'enslaved' carries connotations of slavery but it's slavery to Jesus, and freedom from slavery to sin, slavery from walking in disobedience to God, to instead serve God through Jesus. No servant is greater than their master, but at least the servant of Jesus has Jesus as their master.

If we continue on serving, trusting, obeying sin, we will die. But if we continue serving, trusting, obeying Jesus we will be sanctified and have eternal life: Faith is commanded so is inseparable from obedience. It's the real gospel, the one that calls people to obedience by word and deed, obedience to Jesus. Obedience which leads to righteousness. Faith is commanded of us:

Romans 6:15-23 - What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The **end of those things is death.** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Often believers have times when we stumble and speak and act in the flesh, as we are being sanctified, but we confess (G3670 homologeó) sin and repent:

Romans 8:1-7 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (ESV)

Romans 7:14-25 - For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

I John 1:6-10 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

Example with Simon. Jesus prayed that Simon's faith would not fail, despite knowing Simon would act in the flesh and deny Him, but Jesus asked Simon to strengthen His brothers when he 'turned' (came to his senses, began walking in the spirit/light/truth) again:

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

We should take a page from Nebuchadnezzar, and obey Jesus to strengthen our brothers after we repent:

Daniel 4:34-37 - At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, What have you done? At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. (ESV)

Sinning believers will still experience tribulation. Believers who are unrepentant from sin are probably not true trustees of Jesus or are rebellious even in face of hearing the gospel and maybe even experience the literal place Hades (the bad part). I could be wrong, but I don't want to test God. It's a bad idea to put Christ to the test. Jesus is the Judge.

Peter's confession is absolutely True and is an imperishable truth! We want to be in the truth, so we believe the truth.

Matthew 16:15-19 - He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell (G86 hadés) shall not prevail against it.** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (ESV)

youtube.com: Christ Appeared for Our Sake @time: 11 min 21 sec I think the resurrection of Jesus does two things: One, it vindicates the value of the ransom. When God looked down on the bloodshedding of his Son, which he himself ordained and caused, and He looked at it and Jesus said, "It is finished.", the Father said, "It **is** finished." Then He raised him from the dead to say to all the world, "It was finished. It is all satisfying and all valuable and all sufficient. No more needs to be paid. Once for all, it is done."

I think that's what the resurrection is like - a big exclamation point at the end of **Christ's blood is enough.** Boof! Exclamation point. Up out of the grave! And the second thing it does is say, "Death is defeated." Death **is** defeated.

So that, this afternoon, when sin comes to you, and this is the way he comes, and he says, "You know, life is short, my pleasures are large, and then you die. Maximize. Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you die." To which, you, now after this morning's message, will say, "And the day after that, I will live again, forever, and therefore you're a liar! You're a liar! You're telling me that this life is all I've got, and I should follow you because you can maximize it for me? Well, I'll tell you what I'm going to rise from the dead with Jesus and then I live 10 million million Ages of Ages, and if I were to choose your way now and go to hell rather than Jesus' way and go to heaven I would be an absolute fool. Out of here, sin! That's the way you argue with sin. It's the only way you can defeat sin. Righteousness is not automatic, folks. It is won by warfare with Truth from the Bible.

Because truth is truth, it is imperishable. Our souls are purified as we obey the Truth - obey the Word of God - obey Jesus. Our souls come out of darkness and into imperishable truth. The good news is the delivered account of everything Jesus said and did, and doesn't contradict. Jesus doesn't contradict Himself, so we can trust the word delivered through Jesus and the apostles. The most important parts have been recorded, and this is the good news, the gospel:

I Peter 1:22-25 - Having purified your souls by **your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love,** love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of

perishable seed but of **imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God**; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but **the word of the Lord remains forever**. And **this word is the good news that was preached to you.** (ESV)

The church is the pillar and support of the truth:

I Timothy 3:14-15 - I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you soon, but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and support of the truth.** (LSB)

youtube.com: Hope and the Fruit of Love @time: 5 min 10 sec The Word is not perishable. What's the point? It lasts and lasts, well what's the point of that? Hope! If the word of God by which you were born again dies, you die. Jesus said, "We live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God."

If those words someday die, if they cease to be true, if they cease to have power, we're dead. If they live forever, if those words go on, and they're imperishable, we carried by them, standing on them are imperishing.

II John 1:1-2 - The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

Titus 1:1-3 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

We will be raised imperishable, just as the truth is imperishable:

I Corinthians 15:51-58 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

59.2.7 No lust/corruption in heaven. The divine nature does not have lust/corruption

II Peter 1:3-4 - seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (NASB)

I Thessalonians 4:5 - not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

I feel like people often get this backwards, although I do believe that by Jesus' stripes we are healed, even from things such as addictions (Jesus set me free from vaping, for example), I think that, as Tim Keller puts it, "**Not all addiction is sin but all sin is addiction.**

Quote by Tim Keller Sin is a power and the things you crave become your slave masters, because in your heart those things burn with this idea, "if only". Everything would be fine if only that. And that creates a suction in your life, like a fire. That says, "I've got to have more approval, I've got to have more this, I've got to have a better spouse, I've got to have this. That's the reason I'm unhappy." But the more you throw in there the more it wants. Sin enslaves. We're all addicts. **Not all addiction is sin but all sin is addiction.**

Sinful addictions, the lusts of the world, the pride of life, etc:

II Peter 2:19-21 - They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known **the way of righteousness** than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Trust Jesus:

youtube.com: TRUST JESUS, NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE FACING. {@MarkHemans} @time: 13

Why did you buy the house in the first place? You know, is it worth having a stroke or a heart attack over a house? Sometimes our life, we're pushing pushing pushing for things that it's just the lust of the flesh. You want to keep up with the neighbors. You got to have this nice car, this nice house, this all this stuff. You don't need it. Hallelujah.

Philippians 4:6 - do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (ESV)

We must be holy:

John 8:34 - Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

Ephesians 1:4 - even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

I Peter 1:15-16 - but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

Revelation of John 22:11 - Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.

Ephesians 5:27 - so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

These angels were corrupted:

Genesis 6:2 - that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

59.2.8 Incorrputible inheritance

God is incorruptible:

Romans 1:23 - and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

We will receive an incorruptible body as Jesus' resurrection body does not corrupt:

Acts 13:36-37 - For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.

Incorrputible love is something we can have in this life:

Ephesians 6:24 - Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

I Corinthians 13:8 - Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

An imperishable reward:

I Corinthians 9:25 - Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

I Peter 1:4 - to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

The Holy Spirit dwelling within us guarantees our imperishable inheritance:

II Timothy 1:14 - By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

I Peter 1:23 - for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

In believing in Jesus, we are guaranteed an inheritance in heaven:

Ephesians 1:13,14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (ESV)

The inheritance is in heaven:

I Peter 1:4 - to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (ESV)

We work for the Lord while believing in Jesus:

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

Even our bodies will be raised imperishable:

I Corinthians 15:52 - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

60 We're not called to agree with sinners but to show them the light

60.1 Jesus' company with sinners was to bring them to repentance through mercy, and from darkness to light

Mark 2:17 - And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. (ESV)

Luke 5:31-32 - And Jesus answered them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. (ESV)

We must **want** (agape love, treasure the light) to be healed / sanctified, want to have purified consciences (Hebrews 9:13-15) to serve God and walk in holiness:

John 5:6 - When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, Do you want to be healed? (ESV)

Luke 15:2 - And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, This man receives sinners and eats with them. (ESV)

Matthew 9:10-13 - And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? But when he heard it, he said, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. (ESV)

What is mercy? Mercy is from a position of strength/righteousness, saving life/forgiving instead of letting it die/condemning. Mercy is helping the penitent person live for Jesus in the way He wants us to (as Jesus said, "Go and sin no more.") even though they failed the first time. It could be forgiving debt of someone who believes in Jesus and wants to live the way God wants them to live, for example. Jesus wants us to "prove to be a neighbour" through mercy, as we've received mercy from Him:

Luke 10:36-37 - Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, You go, and do likewise. (ESV)

Luke 6:9 - And Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? (ESV)

Psalms 24:3-4 - Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. (ESV)

Jesus, coming from a position of perfect Righteousness and Holiness, showed mercy here and here. Mercy is not **endorsing** sin, but forgiving it allowing others another chance to change to do good:

Luke 7:47 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.

John 8:3-11 - The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say? This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her. And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.]] (ESV)

So mercy is certainly not endorsing sin such as sexual immorality but mercy is saving life. The wages of sin is death. Mercy is saving life not endorsing death. Mercy is allowing the condemned to be free from condemnation tho that they can change they ways. Mercy is also having compassion on someone who has been attacked by evil and helping them, doing good to them. Mercy is on the side of good and not evil.

60.2 We must disagree with evil, and show people the light of the Gospel

Proverbs 4:14-15 - Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. (ESV)

Psalms 1:1-4 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. (ESV)

I Peter 4:3-4 - The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; (ESV)

Ephesians 5:11 - Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. (ESV)

60.2.1 Friendship with the world is enmity to God

Article Why is Friendship with the World Enmity with God? {James 4:4} - InspiredWalk.com

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that **by testing** you may **discern what is the will of God**, what is good and **acceptable** and perfect. (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:10 - not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. (ESV)

II Corinthians 4:4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (ESV)

John 14:9 - Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father? (ESV)

John 15:18 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (ESV)

John 15:19 - If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (ESV)

60.2.2 We must desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus and that goes against the pattern of the world

II Timothy 3:12 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (ESV)

61 Commandments of God

61.1 Commandments of Father God in the New Testament:

Romans 16:26 - but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith** — (ESV)

Listen to Jesus and believe Jesus is God's Son:

Mark 9:7 - And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, This is my beloved Son; listen to him. (ESV)

Luke 9:35 - And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him! (ESV)

Acts 3:22 - Moses said, The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 - The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die. And the LORD said to me, They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. (ESV)

Walk in the truth, love one another and do not deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh:

II John 1:4-9 - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. **And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments;** this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess (G3670 homologeó) the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

61.2 Commandments of Jesus (which are from God)

The words Jesus Christ spoke were **altogether** a commandment of eternal life which Father God had given Jesus to speak:

John 12:49-50 - For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—**what to say and what to speak.** And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

Have faith in God:

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, Have (G2192 echo) faith (G4102 pistis) in God (G2316 theos).

Have faith in God and have faith in Jesus:

John 14:1 - “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe (G4100 pisteuo) in God, believe (G4100 pisteuo) also in Me.

Pisteuo means to trust. Trust in God, trust also in God’s Son Jesus:

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but **trusts** (G4100 pisteuo) him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near:

Matthew 3:2 - Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (ESV)

Go and sin no more:

John 5:14 - Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you. (ESV)

Follow the 10 commandments **from the heart** in truth as far as to not idolize or covet your material possessions, leave behind your old life and follow Him (Jesus):

Luke 18:18-22 - And a ruler asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother. And he said, All these I have kept from my youth. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Have faith in God to help you achieve this:

Luke 18:26-27 - Those who heard it said, Then who can be saved? But he said, What is impossible with men is possible with God. (ESV)

Come and follow Jesus and allow Him to make you into a fisher of men:

Matthew 4:19 - And he said to them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. (ESV)

Follow Jesus and follow His commandments with God's help to enter the Kingdom, and that sanctification involves exercising Christ's love (Matthew 25:34):

Luke 18:22-30 - When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. **Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.** But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. Jesus, looking at him with sadness, said, **How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!** For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. Those who heard it said, Then who can be saved? But he said, **What is impossible with men is possible with God.** And Peter said, See, we have left our homes and followed you. And he said to them, Truly, I say to you, **there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.** (ESV)

Be born-again of the Spirit (God does this to a person):

John 3:3-8 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

II Peter 1:3-11 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that **through them you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten

that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Forgive others. This must be done for our sake, that our sins may be forgiven:

Matthew 6:14-15 - For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (ESV)

1 1437 1063 863 3588 444 3588 3900
2 Ean gar aphēte tois anthrōpois ta paraptōmata
3
4 If for you forgive - men the trespasses
5 Conj Conj V-ASA-2P Art-DMP N-DMP Art-ANP N-ANP
6
7 846 863 2532 4771 3588 3962 4771
8 autōn aphēsei kai hymin ho Patēr hymōn
9 , II
10 of them will forgive also you the Father of you
11 PPro-GM3P V-FIA-3S Conj PPro-D2P Art-NMS N-NMS PPro-G2P
12
13 3588 3770 [e]
14 ho ouranios
15 .
16 - Heavenly
17 Art-NMS Adj-NMS

See how that after receiving the Holy Spirit it's very important that we forgive others for their sake too:

John 20:22-23 - And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld. (ESV)
Now consider Peter's verse in light of Jesus' commandments to love one another and forgive:
I Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)
Love your enemies (love those who hate you):

Matthew 5:44-48 - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Proverbs 24:17-18 - Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him. (ESV)

Proverbs 25:21-22 - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. (ESV)

Preach the gospel to everyone:

Mark 16:15-16 - And he said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Treasure life in Christ, and Christ's Kingdom which is not of this world, lose your life in this world to find it real life in Christ:

Luke 9:23-24 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (ESV)

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (His commendation):

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

Repent (change your mind) or perish:

Luke 13:3 - No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. (ESV)

Fear God:

Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (ESV)

Rejoice when you're persecuted in Jesus' name:

Matthew 5:11-13 - Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the **salt of the earth**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. (ESV)

Let your light shine before all people:

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

II Corinthians 8:1-2 - We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for **in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity** on their part. (ESV)

Be reconciled to one another:

Matthew 5:23-24 - So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (ESV)

Take sin very seriously:

Matthew 5:29-30 - If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell (1067. geenna). And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (ESV)

Follow the commandments **from the heart**, and in truth, accountable to God:

Matthew 5:32 - But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (ESV)

Turn the other cheek:

Matthew 5:39 - But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. (ESV)

James 5:6 - You have condemned; you have murdered **the righteous person. He does not resist you.** (ESV)

Go above and beyond. Forgive:

Matthew 5:40-42 - And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. (ESV)

Love your enemies as well as your friends. Be like Your Heavenly Father. Be perfect. Love (25. *agapaó*) your enemies means "treasuring your enemies" and looks like not repaying evil for evil. It sometimes looks like refusing to do evil and instead doing good to those who do you harm, taking the initiative in overcoming evil with good:

Matthew 5:43-48 - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Proverbs 25:21-22 - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. (ESV)

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect - love also the ones who hate you:

Matthew 5:38-48 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, **Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.** You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate (3404. *miseó*, 3404 *miséō* – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Keep in mind that what Jesus means by "perfect" is possible, because Jesus said the following, and this is how:

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:11 - Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? (ESV)

In Christ, we must "be perfect" in the sense that Jesus means when He says "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." In Christ, we must not hate one another. In Christ, we **must** agape love one another:

Colossians 3:13-14 - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

The people who walked past the man dying on the street were resting in the way that the devil wants us to rest - i.e. to rest in sin. But Jesus has **commanded** us to do as the good Samaritan did. A person who takes the yoke of Jesus, keeps Jesus' commandments and at the point where they are no longer burdensome to us, we can know that we have come to know Him:

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. **Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.** But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, **You go, and do likewise.** (ESV)

II John 1:4-7 - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (ESV)

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

Matthew 11:27-30 - All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

II John 1:8-10 - Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

Be accountable to God. Do not seek reward from others but from God. Focus on spiritual disciplines for the right reasons.

Matthew 6:1-18 - Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that **your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father** who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)

Have a relationship with God:

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

I'm pretty convinced that what Jesus means by the following is that by giving up earthly treasure in the pursuit of Jesus, heavenly treasure is acquired. I'd say it's likely that the heavenly treasure is simply helping those people. So selling what a person possesses and giving to those in need, though apart from faith in Jesus isn't a "requirement for eternal life", it is a fast track to serving Jesus and getting our heart in heaven and leaning on Jesus, so doing as Jesus said in obedient faith is already starting to follow Jesus and store up heavenly treasure. Seek heavenly reward, not earthly reward. Have a heart seeking reward from God and not from man. Have your heart in heaven, not in earth. We give up our earthly treasure and help other people with it and this becomes heavenly treasure, and we then go after Jesus as our Pearl of Great Price:

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

Seek God's kingdom and His righteousness first of all:

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

Do not worry about tomorrow:

Matthew 6:34 - Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

Use right judgment. We should be examining, judging, cleaning ourselves up, taking a look in the mirror first (by God's standards) before judging others:

Matthew 7:1-5 - Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (ESV)

Romans 2:1 - Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. (ESV)

James 4:11-12 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (ESV)

I Corinthians 4:3 - But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. (ESV)

Practice discretion:

Matthew 7:6 - Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you. (ESV)

Ask, seek, and knock:

Matthew 7:7-8 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. (ESV)

Ask God for your needs, which includes asking God for **the Holy Spirit**:

Luke 11:1-11 - Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples. And he said to them, When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation. And he said to them, Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say

to him, Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him; and he will answer from within, Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; **seek, and you will find;** knock, and it will be opened to you. For **everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds,** and to **the one who knocks it will be opened.** What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; (ESV)

Luke 11:13 - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (ESV)

Treat others as you would like to be treated:

Matthew 7:12 - So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

Choose the narrow path to life:

Matthew 7:13-14 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 stenos ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 thlibó - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (ESV)

Look out for false prophets:

Matthew 7:15-20 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (ESV)

Pray for kingdom laborers. Pray that God sends out kingdom laborers:

Matthew 9:37-38 - Then he said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (ESV)

Be on your guard. Jesus sends us out to be like scapegoats. Be wise and remain blameless:

Matthew 10:16-17 - Behold, I am sending you out as **sheep in the midst of wolves**, so be wise as serpents and **innocent as doves**. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, (ESV)

Philippians 2:15-16 - that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Do not fear persecutors. Fear God. But put your trust in God because He takes care of those who fear Him. Speak the truth:

Matthew 10:26-31 - So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (ESV)

Being subject to governing authorities does not mean behaving like them, but rather is about being blameless before God:

Romans 13:1 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (ESV)

Practice righteousness, but do so to please God and be accountable to God who sees in secret. Don't feel any need to prove yourself to others:

Matthew 23:3 - so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. (ESV)

youtube.com: Petra Captured DVDrrip 20 Godpleaser Greg X Volz {@PetraXVolz} So many voices; Telling me which way to go; So many choices; Come from those who think they know; There's a way that seems right to a man; But it only brings him death; I wanna go the way that leads to life; Till I draw my dying breath;

Don't wanna be a manpleaser; I wanna be a Godpleaser; I just want to have the wisdom; To discern the two apart; Don't wanna be a manpleaser; I wanna be a Godpleaser; I just want to do the things; That please the Father's heart

Our kingdom is not of this world. We have a heavenly, not earthly perspective. Our treasure is in heaven. Our lives belong to God and we owe Him our faithfulness and service and we can't compromise our duties to God:

John 18:36 - Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world. (ESV)

Our hearts and minds belong to God and noone else. Noone has the right to force us to obey unrighteousness. We can't let the devil steal from us our joy of God, or steal our good conscience with God. But if the secular world/kingdoms of this world lays claim to earthly things, we just allow them to have it, knowing we have greater treasure, heavenly reward:

Mark 12:17 - Jesus said to them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him. (ESV)

John 18:36 - Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world. (ESV)

Matthew 5:40 - And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. (ESV)

Mark 15:14 - And Pilate said to them, Why, what evil has he done? But they shouted all the more, Crucify him. (ESV)

Take Jesus' yoke upon yourself:

We obey Jesus' commandments in faith and we persevere with that, striving to obey Jesus, striving to remain faithful to Jesus and at some point we enter rest which Jesus gives us. Our Master, Jesus, who we obey gives us

the rest, and He gives it to us while we hold our faith in Him and abide in His commandments. OK so, living by total dependance on Jesus, giving yourself away to others, believing that Jesus will provide what we need as we continue trying to do the right thing by Jesus, can sometimes feel like living precariously when we lose faith, but it is not precarious. Like God providing manna in the wilderness to the Israelites and all the Israelites had to do was continue trusting and obeying God, and God provided what they needed, we too go through this phase where God is teaching us to depend on Him. But at some point we arrive in the "promised land" of rest as He sanctifies us and His commandments no longer feel burdensome. At some point, it starts to feel like not just trying to help others but now others helping us. We enter the promised land of God's rest together. That's how I think it generally works. But Jesus gives the rest, right? So there's no onus on us or command from Jesus to us to purposefully cease endeavouring to make spiritual sacrifices in order to enter this rest. As far as I understand, we continue obeying Jesus and Jesus grants the rest:

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

Do not despise the little ones:

Matthew 18:10 - See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

How to deal with offenders:

Matthew 18:15-17 - If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (ESV)

Forgive your family in Christ extremely generously / almost without limits:

Matthew 18:21-22 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. (ESV)

Lead through service:

Matthew 20:25-28 - But Jesus called them to him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

Love God with all your heart, mind, and soul:

Matthew 22:37-38 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. (ESV)

Love your neighbor as yourself - fulfill the requirement of the law:

Matthew 22:39 - And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV)

Stay alert and keep watch:

Matthew 24:42-44 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

Make disciples of all the nations, teaching them to follow/obey Jesus:

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe (**G5083 tereo**) all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

Matthew 28:20 - and teaching them to obey (**G5083 tereo**) all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (BSB)

The word tereo means (to keep, observe, obey, follow). Commandments are for obeying. That's all they are for. This observance means to remember and practice. Nowhere in the Bible does it teach to disobey God:

Matthew 28:20 - teaching them to **follow** all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (NASB2020)

Don't teach against needing to do Jesus' commandments. To do so is to teach people to **not be a part** of Jesus' family. It's great how God has given us Hebrew and Greek to make this unambiguous:

Deuteronomy 5:27 - Go near and hear all that the LORD our God will say and speak to us all that the LORD our God will speak to you, and we will hear **and do it.** (ESV)

Luke 8:21 - But he answered them, My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God **and do it.** (ESV)

Deny yourself daily, and follow Jesus:

Luke 9:23-24 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (ESV)

Do not covet your possessions:

Luke 12:15 - And he said to them, Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. (ESV)

Give to those who can't reciprocate:

Luke 14:12-14 - He said also to the man who had invited him, When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. (ESV)

You must be born again:

John 3:7 - Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Those who have testimony of Jesus should preach testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead:

Acts 10:41-44 - not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that **everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.** While Peter was still saying these things, **the Holy Spirit** fell on all who heard the word. (ESV)

Acts 13:47 - For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

Those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel:

I Corinthians 9:14 - In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

61.3 Precepts of Paul

- Pursue godliness with contentment but not without contentment. Pursue personal righteousness
 - righteousness,
 - godliness,
 - faith,
 - love,
 - steadfastness,
 - gentleness.

I Timothy 6:3-11 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are **depraved in mind and deprived of the truth**, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:24 - Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:19-21 - What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:10-17 - To the married I give this charge (*not I, but the Lord*): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. To the rest I say (*I, not the Lord*) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. Wife, how do you know whether you will save your husband? Husband, how do you know whether you will save your wife? Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. (ESV)

61.4 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers

II Corinthians 6:14 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (ESV)

62 More commandments of Jesus (which are all from God)

The words Jesus Christ spoke were **altogether** a commandment of eternal life which Father God had given Jesus to speak:

John 12:49-50 - For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

Video youtube.com: "These things I command you" Jesus' own words from the 4 Gospels

62.1 From the gospel of Matthew

62.1.1 Do the will of Father God to enter heaven

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

62.1.2 Amend your lives, repent from sin

Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (ESV)

62.1.3 Follow Jesus

Matthew 4:19 - And he said to them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. (ESV)

62.1.4 Rejoice when persecuted, and slandered on Jesus' account

Matthew 5:11-13 - Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the **salt of the earth**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. (ESV)

Following Jesus:

Matthew 24:9-13 - Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (ESV)

62.1.5 Let your light (good works) shine before others so they may give glory to Father God

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

62.1.6

Matthew 5:23-24 - So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (ESV)

62.1.7

Matthew 5:29-30 - If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell (1067. geenna). And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (ESV)

62.1.8 Do not swear an oath at all

Matthew 5:34-37 - But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply Yes or No; anything more than this comes from evil. (ESV)

62.1.9 Do not render evil for evil

Matthew 5:38-40 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. (ESV)

62.1.10 Overcome evil with good

Matthew 5:40-41 - And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. (ESV)

Paul following and teaching Christ's teachings:

Romans 12:19-21 - Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

62.1.11 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you

Matthew 5:42 - Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. (ESV)

62.1.12 Love your enemies

Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (ESV)

Didache Chapter 1 - ... Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you. For what reward is there for loving those who love you? Do not the Gentiles do the same? But love those who hate you, and you shall not have an enemy. ...

Philip, an Evangelist in Brazil We have to treat every single person that we encounter with the love of God as much as possible. We fall short, we make mistakes, we're not always at our best, but as much as possible. We provide a testimony.

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect - love also the ones who hate you:

Matthew 5:38-48 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, **Do not resist the one who is evil**. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate (3404. miseō, 3404 miséō – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Keep in mind that what Jesus means by "perfect" is possible, because Jesus said the following, and this is how:

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:11 - Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? (ESV)

In Christ, we must "be perfect" in the sense that Jesus means when He says "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." In Christ, we must not hate one another. In Christ, we **must** agape love one another:

Colossians 3:13-14 - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

- Do not resist the one who is evil - but do good to them

- **Romans 12:21** - Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.** (ESV)
 - if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also
 - if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well
 - if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles
 - Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you
 - Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

I Thessalonians 5:14 - And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. (ESV)

Romans 12:9 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (ESV)

Romans 12:17 - Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. (ESV)

Romans 12:21 - Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

Romans 16:19 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. (ESV)

With Jesus' commandments in mind, we should have joy when the time of testing happens and things are taken away from us. It can take a really long time. But we need to not shrink back. I'm also speaking to myself.

Hebrews 10:34-39 - For **you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property**, since you knew that **you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one**. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that **when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised**. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Luke 6:30 - Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. (ESV)

62.1.13 Do your good not to get some kind of earthly praise

Matthew 6:1 - Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 9:11-13 - And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? But when he heard it, he said, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. (ESV)

62.1.14 Be merciful

Luke 6:36 - Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

62.1.15 How to pray

Matthew 6:5 - And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. (ESV)

Matthew 6:6 - But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)

Matthew 6:7 - And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. (ESV)

Matthew 6:8-13 - Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (ESV)

62.1.16 How to fast

A Guide to Prayer and Fasting - General Assembly

- 1 fasting
- 2 The self-denial of some or all food or
- 3 drink as the faithful express their
- 4 intense concerns to God in special times
- 5 of prayer and worship.

Matthew 6:16-18 - And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, **anoint your head and wash your face**, that **your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father** who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)

When you fast:

- anoint your head and wash your face
 - that **your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father** who is in secret
 - don't even tell anyone

- pray while you fast:
 - your Father knows what you need before you ask him
 - pray in secret
 - ask for God's will be done
 - forgive others
- also, fast for those who persecute you
- be prepared with Scripture, and use it
- praise and worship the Lord
 - youtube.com: Holy Forever Medley | Jesus Image | John Wilds
- persevere and ask God for strength to resist temptation

Just fast for God, and focus on God:

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

Have a goal reason for fasting e.g. before baptism.

Read https://bibletranslation.ws/down/Polycarp_Epistle_To_The_Philippians.pdf[Polycarp to the Philippians, Chapter 7]]

Polycarp 7:2 (Greek)

, , . T , ,

Polycarp 7:2 (English) ² Wherefore, forsaking the vanity of many, and their false doctrines, let us return to the word which has been handed down to us from the beginning; “watching unto prayer,” and persevering in fasting; beseeching in our supplications the all-seeing God to “not lead us into temptation.” As the Lord has said: “The spirit truly is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Go for about a month month, or 40 days, just go without:

- breakfast
- lunch
- coffee

Focus:

- more on prayer
- more on meditating on Jesus' commandments
- willing God's will and not your own

Be:

- repentant

Repent while fasting:

Joel 2:12-17 - Yet even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, Where is their God? (ESV)

Be humble while fasting and supplicating to God:

Isaiah 58:4-6 - Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? (ESV)

Some manuscripts include 'fasting' in Mark 9:29:

Mark 9:29 - And he said to them, This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer. (ESV)

Mark 9:29 - And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer." (NASB)

Mark 9:29 - And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer **and fasting.** (KJV)

We should fast to seek the LORD and we should fast together for a common purpose:

II Chronicles 20:3 - Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. (ESV)

Didache Chapter 7 - ... But before the baptism let the baptizer fast, and the baptized, **and whoever else can;** but you shall order the baptized to fast one or two days before.

We should even fast for the sake of others:

Didache Chapter 1 - ... Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you. For what reward is there for loving those who love you? Do not the Gentiles do the same? But love those who hate you, and you shall not have an enemy. ...

Ezra 10:6 - Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib, where he spent the night, neither eating bread nor drinking water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles. (ESV)

Use Scripture while fasting. Fast for days, or weeks:

Matthew 4:1-4 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread. But he answered, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (ESV)

Praise and worship the Lord while fasting:

Acts 13:2 - While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. (ESV)

Pray while fasting:

Acts 14:23 - And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. (ESV)

Repentance in the heart:

Psalms 69:10 - When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach. (ESV)

Psalms 69:10 - When I wept in my soul with fasting, It became my reproach. (NASB)

Psalms 69:10 - When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach. (KJV)

62.1.17 Lay up treasure in heaven, not on earth - have your heart in heaven, not on earth

I'm pretty convinced that what Jesus means by the following is that by giving up earthly treasure in the pursuit of Jesus, heavenly treasure is acquired. I'd say it's likely that the heavenly treasure is simply helping those people. So selling what a person possesses and giving to those in need, though apart from faith in Jesus isn't a "requirement for eternal life", it is a fast track to serving Jesus and getting our heart in heaven and leaning on Jesus, so doing as Jesus said in obedient faith is already starting to follow Jesus and store up heavenly treasure. Seek heavenly reward, not earthly reward. Have a heart seeking reward from God and not from man. Have your heart in heaven, not in earth. We give up our earthly treasure and help other people with it and this becomes heavenly treasure, and we then go after Jesus as our Pearl of Great Price:

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

62.1.18 Trust in God to provide

Matthew 6:25-34 - Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

62.1.19 Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)

62.1.20 Do not judge unless you don't mind being judged by the same judgement

Matthew 7:1-2 - Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. (ESV)

Luke 6:37 - , Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; (ESV)

James 3:1 - Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. (ESV)

62.1.21

Matthew 7:5 - You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (ESV)

62.1.22

Matthew 7:6 - Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you. (ESV)

62.1.23 Ask and seek

Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (ESV)

Also, Luke 11:13 says God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. So I think it's typical to believe God, believing the gospel, and to ask God for His Holy Spirit, expecting that God will cleanse our heart through faith, being prepared to continue obeying the truth for a sincere brotherly love:

Luke 11:13 - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (ESV)

62.1.24 Golden Rule

Matthew 7:12 - So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

62.1.25 Enter by the narrow gate

Matthew 7:13-14 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow (4728 *stenos* ie. *narrow, small*) and the way is hard (2346 *thlibó* - meaning: like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place) that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (ESV)

62.1.26 Beware of false prophets

Matthew 7:15-16 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? (ESV)

62.1.27 Follow Jesus

Matthew 8:22 - And Jesus said to him, **Follow me**, and leave the dead to bury their own dead. (ESV)

62.1.28

Matthew 9:2 - And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven. (ESV)

62.1.29 Rely on God's mercy continually, and have mercy on others

Matthew 9:13 - Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. (ESV)

62.1.30

Matthew 9:22 - Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well. And instantly the woman was made well. (ESV)

62.1.31

Matthew 9:29 - Then he touched their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it done to you. (ESV)

62.1.32 Pray for God to work/extend His kingdom, sending laborers

Matthew 9:38 - therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (ESV)

bibledaily.net: Pray for God to Send More Labourers To The Harvest Field Father, I pray that You'll send more labourers into the harvest field of souls. Supply them with the anointing and provision to do your work without struggle, in the name of Jesus. Amen

62.1.33

Matthew 10:7-10 - And proclaim as you go, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. (ESV)

62.1.34

Matthew 10:11-14 - And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. As you enter the house, greet it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. (ESV)

62.1.35 As Jesus' sheep, be wise and innocent amongst 'wolves'

Matthew 10:16 - Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (ESV)

62.1.36

Matthew 10:17 - Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, (ESV)

62.1.37

Matthew 10:19-20 - When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (ESV)

62.1.38

Matthew 10:23 - When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. (ESV)

62.1.39

Matthew 10:26 - So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. (ESV)

62.1.40

Matthew 10:27 - What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. (ESV)

62.1.41

Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (ESV)

62.1.42

Matthew 10:31 - Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (ESV)

62.1.43

Matthew 11:15 - He who has ears to hear, let him hear. (ESV)

62.1.44

Matthew 11:28 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (ESV)

62.1.45

Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (ESV)

62.1.46

Matthew 12:33 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. (ESV)

62.1.47

Matthew 13:9 - He who has ears, let him hear. (ESV)

62.1.48

Matthew 13:43 - Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (ESV)

62.1.49

Matthew 15:10-11 - And he called the people to him and said to them, Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person. (ESV)

62.1.50

Matthew 16:6 - Jesus said to them, Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (ESV)

62.1.51

Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus told his disciples, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (ESV)

62.1.52

Matthew 18:8-9 - And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. (ESV)

62.1.53

Matthew 18:10 - See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

62.1.54

Matthew 19:14 - but Jesus said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

62.1.55

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

62.1.56

Matthew 22:21 - They said, Caesar's. Then he said to them, Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. (ESV)

62.1.57

Matthew 22:37-40 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

62.1.58

Matthew 23:2-4 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so **practice and observe** whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. (ESV)

62.1.59

Matthew 23:8 - But you are not to be called rabbi, for **you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.** (ESV)

62.1.60 Refer to God as Father, and also walk like children of God, like God is our Father

Refer to God as Father:

Matthew 23:9 - And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. (ESV)

We should make it our witness that God is our Father:

Matthew 23:29-31 - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, saying, **If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets. Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.** (ESV)

Walk (behave) like children of God, like God is our Father:

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

We should listen to Jesus' word and will to do God's will:

John 9:43-47 - Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

God is the Father of our spirits. God makes us born of the spirit:

Hebrews 12:9 - Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? (ESV)

62.1.61 Be instructed by Christ

Matthew 23:10 - Neither be called instructors, for **you have one instructor (G2519. kathégétés), the Christ.** (ESV)

2519. kathégétés Definition: Teacher, Leader, Guide. Meaning: a leader, teacher, guide, master.

62.1.62 Do not be led astray by false christ

Matthew 24:4-5 - And Jesus answered them, See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is I AM. That means that Jesus Christ the Son of God is Jehovah, just as Father God is Jehovah. Saying that Jesus Christ is I AM is still not saying that the Son of God is Father God. But they are both the one God.

biblehub.com: John 8:24 Interlinear I said therefore to you that you will die in the sins of you if for not you believe that I am (G1473 egō G1510 eimi **I AM** or **I am He**) you will die in the sins of you

1 2036 3767 4771 3754 599 1722 3588
2 eipon oun hymin hoti apothaneisthe en tais
3
4 I said therefore to you that you will die in the
5 V-AIA-1S Conj PPro-D2P Conj V-FIM-2P Prep Art-DFP
6
7 266 4771 1437 1063 3361 4100 3754 1473 1510
8 hamartiais hymōn ean gar mē pisteusēte hoti egō eimi
9 ; ,
10 sins of you if for not you believe that I am [He]
11 N-DFP PPro-G2P Conj Conj Adv V-ASA-2P Conj PPro-N1S V-PIA-1S
12
13 599 1722 3588 266 4771
14 apothaneisthe en tais hamartiais hymōn
15 .
16 you will die in the sins of you
17 V-FIM-2P Prep Art-DFP N-DFP PPro-G2P

We are not to be led astray by false christs:

Mark 13:6 - Many will come in the name of Me saying - I am [He] (G1473 egō G1510 eimi **I AM** or **I am He**) and many they will mislead (Interlinear)

1 4183 2064 1909 3588 3686 1473 3004
2 polloi eleusontai epi tō onomati mou legontes
3 ,
4 Many will come in the name of Me saying
5 Adj-NMP V-FIM-3P Prep Art-DNS N-DNS PPro-G1S V-PPA-NMP
6
7 3754 1473 1510 2532 4183 4105
8 hoti Egō eimi kai pollous planēsousin
9 , , .
10 - I am [He] and many they will mislead
11 Conj PPro-N1S V-PIA-1S Conj Adj-AMP V-FIA-3P

62.1.63

Matthew 24:6 - And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. (ESV)

62.1.64

Matthew 24:15-18 - So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. (ESV)

62.1.65

Matthew 24:23 - Then if anyone says to you, Look, here is the Christ! or There he is! do not believe it. (ESV)

62.1.66

Matthew 24:26 - So, if they say to you, Look, he is in the wilderness, do not go out. If they say, Look, he is in the inner rooms, do not believe it. (ESV)

62.1.67

Matthew 24:32-35 - From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

62.1.68 Our Lord is the Son of Man, and we should be ready and on alert

Matthew 24:42 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (ESV)

Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

Matthew 25:13 - Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (ESV)

Luke 18:8 - I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

62.1.69

Matthew 26:26 - Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. (ESV)

62.1.70

Matthew 26:27-28 - And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

62.1.71

Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (ESV)

62.1.72

Matthew 26:52 - Then Jesus said to him, Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. (ESV)

62.1.73

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (ESV)

62.2 From the gospel of Mark

62.2.1

Mark 1:15 - and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. (ESV)

62.2.2 Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men

Mark 1:17 - And Jesus said to them, Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men. (ESV)

62.2.3

Mark 4:9 - And he said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear. (ESV)

62.2.4

Mark 4:23 - If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. (ESV)

62.2.5

Mark 4:24 - And he said to them, Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. (ESV)

62.2.6

Mark 6:10-11 - And he said to them, Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them. (ESV)

62.2.7

Mark 7:14-16 - And he called the people to him again and said to them, Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. (ESV)

62.2.8

Mark 8:15 - And he cautioned them, saying, Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod. (ESV)

62.2.9

Mark 8:34 - And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (ESV)

62.2.10

Mark 9:23 - And Jesus said to him, If you can! All things are possible for one who believes. (ESV)

62.2.11

Mark 9:39-41 - But Jesus said, Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. (ESV)

62.2.12

Mark 9:45 - And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. (ESV)

62.2.13

Mark 9:47 - And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, (ESV)

62.2.14

Mark 9:50 - Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. (ESV)

- youtube.com: 100huntley - What motivates you most to share the Gospel? {@100huntley}

What motivates you most to share the Gospel?

- Obedience to the Great Commission
- Urgency of Christ's return
- Concern for Other's Eternal Destiny
- Other (See Comment)

Out of those options, concern for other's eternal destiny fits most closely to what motivates me. There is obligation and duty (Paul said, woe to me if I do not preach the gospel), and I feel like the same sense of obligation applies to me. There is not "hiding the light under a bushel". There is not wanting to live a lie and choosing to live righteously without fear of punishment. There's also the motivation of an agape love for Jesus' words. Agape love treasures them. And it seems like the majority of voices out there are trying to silence Jesus' words. There's wanting to be salt and light because there are a lot of people out there not striving to get to know Jesus through keeping His commandments as faithfully and sincerely as they can. Because the apostles practiced what they preached. (2Co 10:11: Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present.) A lot of modern Christians would say that "striving" is wrong and talking about Jesus's commandments seriously is having a "religious spirit". We need to be salt and light because the world is full of darkness. It's urgent!

God's Word must be the authority. Because we want to be corrected by God and grow in the knowledge of Him. Not just "academically" but experientially:

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. (ESV)

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

62.2.15

Mark 10:9 - What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. (ESV)

62.2.16

Mark 10:14-15 - But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. (ESV)

62.2.17

Mark 10:21 - And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

62.2.18

Mark 11:22 - And Jesus answered them, **Have faith in God.** (ESV)

62.2.19

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (ESV)

62.2.20

Mark 11:25 - And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (ESV)

62.2.21

Mark 12:17 - Jesus said to them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him. (ESV)

62.2.22

Mark 12:29-31 - Jesus answered, The most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. (ESV)

62.2.23

Mark 12:38-40 - And in his teaching he said, Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation. (ESV)

62.2.24

Mark 13:5-6 - And Jesus began to say to them, See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, I am he! and they will lead many astray. (ESV)

62.2.25

Mark 13:7 - And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. (ESV)

62.2.26

Mark 13:9 - But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. (ESV)

62.2.27

Mark 13:10 - And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. (ESV)

62.2.28

Mark 13:11 - And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

62.2.29

Mark 13:14-16 - But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. (ESV)

62.2.30

Mark 13:21-23 - And then if anyone says to you, Look, here is the Christ! or Look, there he is! do not believe it. False christ and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand. (ESV)

62.2.31

Mark 13:28-29 - From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. (ESV)

62.2.32

Mark 13:32-33 - But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. (ESV)

Matthew 24:42-44 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

62.2.33

Mark 13:35-37 - Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake. (ESV)

62.2.34

Mark 14:22 - And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, Take; this is my body. (ESV)

62.2.35

Mark 14:38 - Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (ESV)

62.2.36

Mark 16:15 - And he said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (ESV)

62.3 From the gospel of Luke

62.3.1

Luke 6:22-23 - Blessed are you when people hate you and when they **exclude** you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. (ESV)

62.3.2

Luke 6:27-28 - But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. (ESV)

We should pray for our enemies and bless those who curse us. After all, at one time I was myself in the dark, and we are not fighting against flesh and blood.

Proverbs 24:17-18 - Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

62.3.3

Luke 6:29 - To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. (ESV)

62.3.4

Luke 6:30 - Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. (ESV)

62.3.5

Luke 6:31 - And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. (ESV)

62.3.6

Luke 6:35 - But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. (ESV)

62.3.7 Be merciful

Matthew 9:11-13 - And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? But when he heard it, he said, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. (ESV)

Luke 6:36 - Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

62.3.8 Forgive that we be forgiven

Luke 6:37 - , Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; (ESV)

And absolutely do not bear grudges against those who are in Christ:

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

62.3.9

Luke 6:38 - give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. (ESV)

62.3.10

Luke 6:42 - How can you say to your brother, Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye, when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. (ESV)

62.3.11

Luke 8:8 - And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold. As he said these things, he called out, He who has ears to hear, let him hear. (ESV)

62.3.12

Luke 8:18 - Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away. (ESV)

62.3.13

Luke 8:48 - And he said to her, Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace. (ESV)

62.3.14

Luke 8:50 - But Jesus on hearing this answered him, Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well. (ESV)

62.3.15

Luke 9:3-5 - And he said to them, Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them. (ESV)

62.3.16

Luke 9:23 - And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (ESV)

62.3.17

Luke 9:48 - and said to them, Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least (3398. mikros) among you all is the one who is great. (ESV)

62.3.18

Luke 9:50 - But Jesus said to him, Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you. (ESV)

62.3.19

Luke 9:60 - And Jesus said to him, Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God. (ESV)

62.3.20

Luke 10:2-11 - And he said to them, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, Peace be to this house! And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, The kingdom of God has come near to you. But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near. (ESV)

62.3.21

Luke 10:20 - Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. (ESV)

62.3.22

Luke 11:2-4 - And he said to them, When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation. (ESV)

62.3.23

Luke 11:9 - And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (ESV)

62.3.24

Luke 11:33 - No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. (ESV)

62.3.25

Luke 11:34-35 - Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. (ESV)

62.3.26

Luke 11:41 - But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. (ESV)

62.3.27

Luke 12:1-3 - In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops. (ESV)

62.3.28

Luke 12:4-5 - I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more than they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! (ESV)

62.3.29

Luke 12:7 - Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. (ESV)

62.3.30

Luke 12:11-12 - And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say. (ESV)

62.3.31

Luke 12:15 - And he said to them, Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. (ESV)

62.3.32

Luke 12:22-24 - And he said to his disciples, Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! (ESV)

62.3.33

Luke 12:27-28 - Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! (ESV)

62.3.34

Luke 12:29-30 - And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. (ESV)

62.3.35

Luke 12:31 - Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. (ESV)

62.3.36

Consider that Jesus is making Father God known.

Luke 12:32 - Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (ESV)

Consider this as I read Jesus' words talking about Father God:

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (ESV)

62.3.37

Luke 12:33-34 - Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (ESV)

62.3.38

Luke 12:35-36 - Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. (ESV)

62.3.39

Luke 12:58 - As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. (ESV)

62.3.40

Luke 13:24 - Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (ESV)

62.3.41

Luke 14:8-11 - When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, Give your place to this person, and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, Friend, move up higher. Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

62.3.42

Luke 14:12-14 - He said also to the man who had invited him, When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. (ESV)

62.3.43

Luke 14:34 - Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? (ESV)

62.3.44

Luke 16:9 - And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. (ESV)

62.3.45

Luke 17:3-4 - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, I repent, you must forgive him. (ESV)

62.3.46

Luke 17:10 - So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty. (ESV)

62.3.47

Luke 17:19 - And he said to him, Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

62.3.48

Luke 17:21 - nor will they say, Look, here it is! or There! for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you. (ESV)

62.3.49

Luke 17:22-25 - And he said to the disciples, The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, Look, there! or Look, here! Do not go out or follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. (ESV)

62.3.50

Luke 17:30-31 - so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. (ESV)

62.3.51

Luke 18:6-8 - And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? , Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (ESV)

62.3.52

Luke 18:16-17 - But Jesus called them to him, saying, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. (ESV)

62.3.53

Luke 18:22 - When Jesus heard this, he said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

62.3.54

Luke 18:42 - And Jesus said to him, Recover your sight; your faith has made you well. (ESV)

62.3.55

Luke 20:25 - He said to them, Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. (ESV)

62.3.56

Luke 20:46-47 - Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation. (ESV)

62.3.57

Luke 21:8-9 - And he said, See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, I am he! and, The time is at hand! Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once. (ESV)

62.3.58

Luke 21:14-19 - Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. (ESV)

62.3.59

Luke 21:20-22 - But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. (ESV)

62.3.60

Luke 21:25-28 - And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (ESV)

62.3.61

Luke 21:29-31 - And he told them a parable: Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. (ESV)

62.3.62

Luke 21:34-36 - But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (ESV)

62.3.63

Luke 22:17-18 - And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. (ESV)

62.3.64

Luke 22:19 - And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. (ESV)

62.3.65

Luke 22:26 - But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. (ESV)

62.3.66

Luke 22:36-37 - He said to them, But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: And he was numbered with the transgressors. For what is written about me has its fulfillment. (ESV)

62.3.67

Luke 22:40 - And when he came to the place, he said to them, Pray that you may not enter into temptation. (ESV)

62.3.68

Luke 22:46 - and he said to them, Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation. (ESV)

62.3.69

Luke 23:28-31 - But turning to them Jesus said, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed! Then they will begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us, and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry? (ESV)

62.3.70

Luke 24:36 - As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, Peace to you! (ESV)

62.3.71

Luke 24:38-39 - And he said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. (ESV)

62.3.72

Luke 24:49 - And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. (ESV)

62.4 From the gospel of John

62.4.1 Whoever loves God must also love their family in Christ

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

I John 4:7-21 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God **must** also love his brother. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

62.4.2

John 1:43 - The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, Follow me. (ESV)

62.4.3

John 2:16 - And he told those who sold the pigeons, Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade. (ESV)

62.4.4

John 4:34-35 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. (ESV)

62.4.5

John 5:14 - Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you. (ESV)

62.4.6

John 6:27 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. (ESV)

62.4.7

John 6:29 - Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. (ESV)

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

62.4.8

John 6:43-44 - Jesus answered them, Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

62.4.9

John 7:24 - Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment. (ESV)

62.4.10

John 7:37-38 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (ESV)

62.4.11

John 8:7 - And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her. (ESV)

62.4.12

John 8:11 - She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more. (ESV)

62.4.13

John 10:37-38 - If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. (ESV)

62.4.14

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, **he must follow me**; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (ESV)

62.4.15

John 12:35-36 - So Jesus said to them, The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. (ESV)

62.4.16 Jesus washed out feet. Now we wash others' feet. A saint, having been forgiven and love by Jesus passes forward this love and forgiveness and bears other people's burdens

John 13:14-15 - If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (ESV)

62.4.17

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

62.4.18

John 14:1 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (ESV)

Isaiah 26:3-4 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (ESV)

62.4.19

John 14:11 - Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. (ESV)

62.4.20

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

62.4.21

John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (ESV)

62.4.22

John 15:4 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (ESV)

62.4.23

John 15:9 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. (ESV)

62.4.24

John 15:12 - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (ESV)

62.4.25

John 15:17 - These things I command you, so that you will love one another. (ESV)

62.4.26

John 15:20 - Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

62.4.27

John 15:26-27 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (ESV)

62.4.28

John 16:24 - Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. (ESV)

62.4.29

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. (ESV)

62.4.30

John 20:17 - Jesus said to her, Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. (ESV)

62.4.31

John 20:19 - On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, Peace be with you. (ESV)

62.4.32

John 20:21 - Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. (ESV)

62.4.33

John 20:22-23 - And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld. (ESV)

62.4.34

John 20:27 - Then he said to Thomas, Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe. (ESV)

62.4.35

John 21:17 - He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, Do you love me? and he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep. (ESV)

62.4.36

John 21:19 - (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, Follow me. (ESV)

62.5 From the Acts of the Apostles

62.5.1

Acts 1:4-5 - And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. (ESV)

62.5.2

Acts 10:15 - And the voice came to him again a second time, What God has made clean, do not call common. (ESV)

62.5.3

Acts 18:9-10 - And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people. (ESV)

62.6 We must abide by His teaching

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

Luke 6:46-49 - Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great. (ESV)

Mark 16:15 - And he said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (ESV)

62.6.1 Notice how James and Paul both here abide by Jesus' teaching

With the judgment you pronounce you will be judged:

Matthew 7:1-5 - Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (ESV)

Romans 2:1 - Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. (ESV)

James 4:11-12 - Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (ESV)

Do not worry about tomorrow:

Matthew 6:25-34 - Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

James 4:13-14 - Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. (ESV)

Jesus taught to overcome evil with good:

Matthew 5:38-41 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. (ESV)

James understood Jesus' teaching regarding not resisting evil people and overcoming evil with good:

James 5:6 - You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. (ESV)

Paul following and teaching Christ's teachings regarding overcoming evil with good:

Romans 12:19-21 - Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)

63 godliness

The word godliness, I think means, to act in a way fitting of having true knowledge of our God, and of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and preparing oneself for eternity.

Titus 1:1 - Paul, a bond-servant (G1401 doulos) of God (G2316 theos) and an apostle of Jesus (G2424 Iesous) Christ (G5547 Christos), for the faith (G4102 pistis) of those chosen of God (G2316 theos) and the knowledge (G1922 epignosis) of the truth (G225 aletheia) which is according to godliness (G2150 eusebeia),

Perfect godliness revealing God through Jesus Christ:

I Timothy 3:16 - Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. (ESV)

Isaiah 32:6 - For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. (ESV)

Relevant verses	Characteristics of godliness
Titus 1:1-3	Behaviour in accordance with true knowledge about God
Isaiah 32:6, Romans 1:18	Disinclined towards wickedness; inclined to practice righteousness
Isaiah 32:6, Romans 1:18	Speaks the truth about the Lord
Isaiah 32:6	Takes care of their neighbour
Romans 1:21	Honours God as God
Romans 1:21	Gives thanks to God
Romans 1:18-22, Proverbs 1:7	Has the fear of God
I Timothy 3:8	Knows God can see your heart
I Timothy 2:1-4	Cares that any person, even the worldly, may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth
I Timothy 2:9, I Timothy 3:8	Not worldliness, knowing that humility pleases God
I Timothy 6:10-11	Not worldliness, knowing that true riches are in heaven. No love for money
I Timothy 2:10	Performs good works (works which are pleasing to God)
I Timothy 3:11	Dignified, sober-minded
I Timothy 3:11	Faithful in all things
I Timothy 4:7-8	Profitable for all things (physical and spiritual), present life and eternity
I Timothy 6:4, II Timothy 2:16	Has eyes set on God. Doesn't fall into vain, time-wasting arguments
II Timothy 3:5	Keeps themself accountable to God. Has a real relationship with God.
Titus 2:11-14	Cooperates with Jesus purifying them, and employing them in good works, for eternal life
Titus 1:2, Titus 2:11-14	Hopes for eternal life
II Peter 3:10-12	Prepares for eternity
II Peter 1:3	Responds well to Jesus' supply to us of what we need to live godly lives.
II Peter 1:5-7	Supplements steadfastness (helps us to be more steadfast)
II Peter 1:5-7	Is supplemented by brotherly affection (in accordance with true knowledge about God)
II Peter 2:6, I Corinthians 6:18	Obeys God, and lives righteously, and in love for one's neighbour, and flees from lust
I Corinthians 10:8-14	Does not put Christ to the test. Clings to God, flees from idolatry, sexual immorality and other sin

63.1 Verses

Isaiah 32:6 - For a fool speaks nonsense, And his heart inclines toward wickedness: To practice ungodliness and to speak error against the Lord (H3068 Yhovah), To keep the hungry person unsatisfied And to withhold drink from the thirsty.

Romans 1:18 - For the wrath of God (G2316 theos) is revealed from heaven (G3772 ouranos) against all (G3956 pas) ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth (G225 aletheia) in unrighteousness,

Romans 11:26 - and so all (G3956 pas) Israel will be saved (G4982 sozo); just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob."

I Timothy 2:1-4 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

I Timothy 2:10 - but rather by means of good works (G2041 ergon), as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

I Timothy 3:16 - By common confession, great is the mystery (G3466 musterion) of godliness (G2150 eusebeia): He who (G3739 hos) was revealed in the flesh (G4561 sarx), Was vindicated in the Spirit (G4151 pneuma), Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world (G2889 kosmos), Taken up in glory (G1391 doxa).

I Timothy 4:7-8 - But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness (G2150 eusebeia); for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness (G2150 eusebeia) is profitable for all (G3956 pas) things (G3956 pas), since it holds promise for the present life (G2222 zoe) and also for the life to come.

I Timothy 6:3-6 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are **depraved in mind and deprived of the truth**, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness (G2150 eusebeia) actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

I Timothy 6:10-11 - For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

II Timothy 2:16 - But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,

II Timothy 3:5 - holding to a form of godliness (G2150 eusebeia), although they have denied its power (G1411 dunamis); Avoid such men as these.

Titus 1:1 - Paul, a bond-servant (G1401 doulos) of God (G2316 theos) and an apostle of Jesus (G2424 Iesous) Christ (G5547 Christos), for the faith (G4102 pistis) of those chosen of God (G2316 theos) and the knowledge (G1922 epignosis) of the truth (G225 aletheia) which is according to godliness (G2150 eusebeia),

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people**, training us to **renounce ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to **live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age**, **waiting for our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Jesus has granted us what we need to live a godly life:

II Peter 1:3 - seeing that His divine power (G1411 dunamis) has granted to us everything (G3956 pas) pertaining to life (G2222 zoe) and godliness (G2150 eusebeia), through the true (G1922 epignosis) knowledge (G1922 epignosis) of Him who called us by His own glory (G1391 doxa) and excellence.

II Peter 1:5-7 - For this very reason, make every effort to **supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love**.

II Peter 3:10-12 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

64 'Election' / predestination, theology etc. is a massive distraction, I think

Talking about "election" is a bit like talking about how God has in this specific instance, regarding Jacob, made a promise regarding him and about those who God foreknew. I don't think that this passage alone excludes the possibility that someone who wasn't predestined (at least from our perspective as humans trying to understand theology, say from the Reformed perspective) could be conformed to the image of His Son, that is, other people who were not "predestined". That seems like something I'd like to look into. I would point to Romans 11 and say that we should not be conceited, but in humility continue to trust and obey Jesus Christ, continuing to seek God's commendation. I would not exclude the possibility that someone who doesn't come under this banner of "election" as we understand it could repent and be grafted in and be saved. But I need to do more study on this.

It certainly seems to be that Jacob was "predestined" to be loved and that there are people who are "predestined" to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28-34 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 1:4-5 - For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. (ESV)

With regards to Romans 9:13, election is only guaranteed to ascribe to Jacob because a promise was given regarding Jacob before either Jacob or Esau were born, before they had done any good or evil:

Romans 9:11-13 - though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call—she was told, The older will serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated. (ESV)

The mercy regarding election ultimately depends on God's mercy:

Romans 9:16 - So then it is not of him that willetteth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. (KJV)

Jesus has made a promise regarding mercy. We should be merciful if we want mercy from God:

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (ESV)

If we want our election to be sure then we should be supplementing our faith as Peter describes. We should have brotherly affection and agape love for our family in Christ and not go on sinning:

II Peter 1:5-10 - For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (ESV)

The elect have soft hearts. We ourselves should have soft hearts which love the truth and don't try to resist the truth, and have faith in and receive and love Jesus Christ and has the fear of God and humility before God:

Romans 11:17-27 - But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins. (ESV)

Mark 3:4-5 - And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

Mark 8:17 - And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? (ESV)

II Chronicles 36:12-13 - He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the Lord. He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord, the God of Israel. (ESV)

Zechariah 7:12 - They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts. (ESV)

If we have a hard heart, we should ask for a new one:

Ezekiel 36:26 - And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

So when Paul is saying "it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy." I believe that this is directly related to how Jesus says "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him":

John 6:44 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

Romans 9:16 - So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. (KJV)

The will to come to Jesus is still instrumental to being saved. But God draws a person:

John 5:39-40 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. (ESV)

Jesus Himself says "not my will but Yours, be done":

Luke 22:42 - saying, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done. (ESV)

Yet Jesus was acting of His own initiative:

John 10:18 - No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. (ESV)

We must still have faith in Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:16 - That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (ESV)

Philippians 3:9 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—(ESV)

And in these specific circumstances, we can say that the promise did not depend on human will or exertion, but on God who has mercy, because they were not even born yet, but one was a child of promise.

Romans 9:15-16 - For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

God has made promises that are dependant on our having faith in God, specifically, faith in Jesus Christ, but it's not by works:

Romans 9:30-33 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. (ESV)

Election does not mean we must not have faith. We must continue abiding in Jesus' commandments:

Romans 11:17-22 - But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. (ESV)

Matthew 7:18-22 - A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? (ESV)

I believe that here on earth, God wants us to choose Jesus. But from God's perspective, who knows how it works.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (ESV)

God can raise up children from anyone who has repentance and may grant being a child of Abraham to anyone who walks in the footsteps of the faith that Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Luke 3:8 - Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

youtube.com: Why Calvinism Fails | Leighton Flowers | Soteriology 101 {@Soteriology101} @time: 19 m

Because the two times that Paul uses the term predestination in chapter 8 (Romans 8) and in Ephesians 1 are both about God predestining people to become conformed in the image of his Son and predestining people to become holy and blameless, which is exactly the same thing, it's synonymous. Becoming holy and blameless is the same as being conformed to the image of his Son. It doesn't say he's conforming he's predestining certain people to become believers, it says predestined believers to become like Jesus. He's predestined believers, those who are in Christ, to become holy and blameless.

Hebrews 2:11-12 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise. (ESV)

Romans 8:29-30 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (ESV)

Ephesians 1:3-10 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (ESV)

We do have the ability to make choices:

Isaiah 66:3 - He who slaughters an ox is like one who kills a man; he who sacrifices a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; he who presents a grain offering, like one who offers pig's blood; he who makes a memorial offering of frankincense, like one who blesses an idol. These have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations; (ESV)

A gift can be accepted or rejected - and this is a choice we can make:

Romans 5:17 - If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness **reign in life** through the one man Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Even the elect need help to obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory:

II Timothy 2:10 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (ESV)

We should not lean on our own understanding:

Isaiah 55:9 - For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

What we should do now is acknowledge the LORD, keep our eyes on Jesus, and live godly lives (godliness is behaviour in accordance with the knowledge of God, believe the truth and walk in that truth, love the light, walk in the light, walk in the truth). Trust in the LORD to save us as we walk in the light (in obedience):

Proverbs 3:5-6 - **Trust** in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

Although God chooses who He has mercy on, we should still have a godly and humble response to God's mercy:

Romans 9:10-16 - And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call—she was told, The older will serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated. What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

We should be confident that God will continue to take care of us:

Romans 8:29-39- For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? **Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?** It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God has good plans for us and we should submit to His wisdom, and obey Him:

Isaiah 64:8 - But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Who chooses who? I believe Jesus chose me and I also choose Jesus every day but Jesus chose me first:

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (ESV)

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

youtube.com: When Calvinism Goes Bad {Part 3} - Tim Conway {@illbehonest} @time: 55 min 58 sec

Have you ever noticed how the evangelistic teaching of the apostolic preachers in the Book of Acts never ever mention election once. And yet, the epistles, which are written to God's people, rarely of devoid of it. Have you ever noticed that? Calvin recognized that Scripture generally introduces the doctrine of election to show Believers the security and certainty of their salvation and to humble Christians by showing them who makes them to differ from others. That is true. But when election is constantly introduced to the lost it inevitably proves to be an obstruction in the minds of lost men and women. I guarantee you the devil would use it that way.

God is the Creator, our Maker.

- For those who love God
 - obedient to God
- For those who are called according to His purpose
- All things work together for good

God's ultimately the one in control of us but from our perspective we must submit to His righteousness and His will and be obedient.

To make election sure, and **to not fail**, one must practice personal righteousness and put a stop to sin.

II Peter 1:10-11 - Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Acts 13:14-16 - but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it. So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: Men of Israel and **you who fear God**, listen. (ESV)

When it comes to being saved to serve Christ, we can't boast that in some way we earned salvation outside of God's gift/grace:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (ESV)

Romans 11:32 - For God has consigned all to disobedience (543. *apeitheia - willful unbelief, obstinacy, disobedience*), that he may have mercy on all. (ESV)

We still need to submit to God's righteousness. We were all in disobedience so we all need mercy from God. We all need Jesus' blood to be justified. We're not trying to establish our own righteousness outside of Christ. We all need to be washed by the Holy Spirit:

Romans 10:3 - For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. (ESV)

God's mercy doesn't come at the expense of His justice. I don't think it's necessarily correct to say, "We want mercy, not justice" because God is just when He gives mercy and, for example, when we confess sin as Christians, He is faithful and **just** to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. So justice and mercy are not really mutually exclusive:

Luke 18:1-8 - And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Give me justice against my adversary. For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming. And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? , Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (ESV)

Homologeó means to come into agreement with the fact. So we need to come into agreement with the truth that we have sinned and that such things are sinful. So then, if we walk in the light, if we are doing as commanded by God, (as in having faith in Jesus and loving our family in Christ as God wants us to) then we walk in the light and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from our sin, so mercy and justice are not really separate things here:

I John 1:6-10 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

We must "walk in the light" (love in the truth, love in the light, love in actuality, from the heart). We can't love in truth while denying Christ, for example (John 3:14-19, I John 4:1-3). And we can't love in the truth while hating our family in Christ (I John 3:14-20). We love because God loved us first (I John 4:6-19). Loving in the truth also means that it is out of faith in the truth (Romans 14:23), out of sincere love for God (I Corinthians 16:22), endeavouring to do what God wants us to do, seeking to please God (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 8:3-10, Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 1:1-10), in the truth (accepting God loved us first, II John 1:1-3), unlike a whitewashed-wall Pharisee who doesn't do their works from a *truly* obedient heart (I Peter 2:6-9). Good deeds come out of sincerely obeying Jesus Christ out of faith in Him. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us and He commanded us to love our family in Christ as a must. We must love our family in Christ. The deeds will come from a genuine love in the truth from the heart:

I John 3:14-20 - We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love (**agapōmen**) the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:12 - Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. (ESV)

No joke, we **must** take care of our family in Christ who are in need. It's mandatory. Be the good Samaritan to our family in Christ when they need our help. If a person knows what good he ought to do and doesn't do it then for that person it is sin. If we are to love in truth then when we know what good we ought to do, we should then be doing it:

James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a **brother or sister** is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (ESV)

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

God is just regardless:

Romans 9:13-16 - As it is written, Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated. What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (ESV)

If we are merciful then we will receive mercy:

Matthew 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

I think Jesus wants us to "prove to be a neighbour to others", to show **mercy** to others, even for the sole reason that they're a fellow human being, without necessarily knowing anything else about them, particularly people who have been afflicted by evil (in this case, robbed, beaten and left for dead):

Luke 10:25-37 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read it? And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus replied, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, The one who showed him mercy. And Jesus said to him, You go, and do likewise. (ESV)

- The elect fear God
 - They had soft hearts
 - * able to believe and obey
- The non-elect **judge themselves** unworthy of eternal life

– They had hard hearts

* unable to believe and obey

One thing is for sure. The elect do not have hard hearts. So I'd say if a person's heart is not totally hard, then soften it.

II Timothy 2:10-13 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

youtube.com: God Is Our Savior from What? 1 Timothy 1:1-2, Part 2 @time: 2 min 3 sec He does everything he does as an apostle to help people (who turn out to be God's elect) obtain salvation.

II Timothy 2:10 - Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (ESV)

A heart not easy to be moved with virtuous affections:

Deuteronomy 15:7 - If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, (ESV)

Mark 3:4-5 - And He said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?” But they kept silent. After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Do I Have a Hard Heart?

Mark 8:17 - And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? (ESV)

II Chronicles 36:12-13 - He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the Lord. He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord, the God of Israel. (ESV)

Romans 2:4 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (ESV)

Zechariah 7:12 - They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts. (ESV)

If we have a hard heart, we should ask for a new one:

Ezekiel 36:26 - And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Don't let your heart go hard - find a community of encouraging believers - this place looks cool: <https://www.youtube.com/@jesusimage>:

Hebrews 3:13 - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Acts 13:46-48 - And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and **judge yourselves unworthy** of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. (ESV)

I do believe, however, that **cooperation** is generally required on the part of the believer:

- Before regeneration, and
- After regeneration

Before regeneration, I was trying hard to repent of my sin by trying to obey the 10 commandments **from the heart**. And I would say I was also making progress. After regeneration, I had to learn to walk in Jesus' commandments, and to submit to His righteousness.

To be sanctified by faith in Jesus is an applied process, I think:

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are **sanctified by faith in me**. (ESV)

Obeying Jesus Christ, and having love perfected in us is the most important part of sanctification, I think:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

In similar fashion to Jesus continually obeying Father God as he endured suffering, I think we should learn to submit and follow Jesus' commandments:

Hebrews 5:7-10 - In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

The 1689 Baptist confession affirms that the problem of corruption remains after regeneration:

- 1 Paragraph 5
- 2
- 3 The corruption of nature, during this life,
- 4 does remain in those that are regenerated;¹³
- 5 and although it be through Christ pardoned and
- 6 mortified, yet both itself, and the first
- 7 motions thereof, are truly and properly sin.¹⁴
- 8
- 9 13 Rom. 7:18,23; Eccles. 7:20; 1 John 1:8
- 10 14 Rom. 7:23-25; Gal. 5:17

64.1 My experience in turning to love Jesus and obey Jesus

I believe that after being born-again of the spirit, I had (with very little knowledge of Jesus' commandments) had to learn Jesus' commandments and apply them, and I believe **the Holy Spirit** taught me to obey Jesus as I read Jesus' sayings and was subsequently tested on those sayings. For example, if I read that we must give to all who ask, and then the Lord sets up a situation where someone asks for money, then I have a choice to obey Jesus, which means resisting those who try to deter me from obeying Jesus. Upon being tested, someone would offer

worldly wisdom in an attempt to deter me from following Jesus, and as I obey God I am led by **the Holy Spirit**, and taught by **the Holy Spirit**. And this is an ongoing process. I say this for others' sake to explain how I have come to know how faith in Jesus, following Jesus, works practically, that it is more than mere intellectual belief to be led by the Spirit, but it is also obedience, and a process of sanctification, and walking in the light which involves walking in love characteristic of Christ's love.

So I was born-again of the Spirit and when that happened I was given some very strong faith/knowledge that God exists, but I still had to seek Jesus because the Bible says that anyone who claims to know Jesus but doesn't walk in His commandments is not telling the truth, and I want to come to know Jesus.

I John 2:3-4 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (ESV)

When people say, "Is there anyone who does not know Jesus yet? Please put up your hand." they are effectively saying, "Is there anyone who does not follow Jesus' commandments yet? Please put up your hand."

Believing in your heart is an initial act of obedience before continuing in the teaching of Christ. If we believe in Him we have obeyed Him, but belief doesn't end there:

John 14:1 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe (G4100 *pisteuo*) in God, believe (G4100 *pisteuo*) also in Me. (NASB)

Acts 28:27 - For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And **understand with their heart and return**, And I would heal them."

God wants everyone who comes to Jesus and place their trust in Him to have eternal life:

John 6:40-47 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. They said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, I have come down from heaven? Jesus answered them, Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. (ESV)

If you hear Jesus' word and believe Father God, then you have eternal life, and don't come into judgement. I don't doubt it. We must continue trusting. But the enemy will certainly try to condemn the person after they are born-again.

Matthew 17:5 - He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; **listen to him**. (ESV)

Trusting Jesus' words we do not come into judgement, but change direction, and instead our destiny is life eternal. We do not come into judgement. Jesus is the judge of that:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. **The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word (**191. akouó**) and believes (4100. *pisteuó*) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed (**3327. metabain**) from death to life. (ESV)

I think John 5:24 reads that the one who is trusting the words spoken through Jesus, trusting God, trusting Jesus is holds/posesses eternal life and has passed/is passing/passes from death into life.

2064. erchomai to come, go

3327. metabain to pass over, withdraw, depart

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (KJV)

It's imperative that as we go ahead, we **must** abide in the teaching of Christ, or we won't have God (Jehovah God), and God is love and love comes from God, so we need to abide in Christ's teachings, by belief and by obedience. For example, in **Mark 10:18**, Jesus affirmed that God is Good. Therefore when we read this, we must also be sanctified by this truth, affirming and coming into agreement that God is Good. Also, Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us **John 13:34-35**:

II John 1:9-10 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (ESV)

64.2 Repentance includes bearing fruit and being raised up as a child for Abraham

John the Baptist taught repentance and love for one's neighbour before receiving the baptism of **the Holy Spirit**:

Luke 3:3-8 - And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Regeneration is the sovereign work of **the Holy Spirit**, though. AMEN!! Nevertheless, I believe in allowing Jesus Christ to be my Lord and being sanctified through obedience to Jesus:

John 3:5-8 - Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

John 6:45-47 - It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me — not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes (G4100 pisteuo) has eternal life.

Also, I believe that this is what God actually wants from us - to seek Him and worship Him of our own volition.

Romans 11:7-10 - What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The **elect** obtained it, but **the rest were hardened**, as it is written, God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day. And David says, Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever.

The Gentiles should not harden their own hearts. Neither should the Jews.

Psalms 95:8 - do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

Hebrews 3:8 - do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,

Hebrews 3:15 - As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.

Hebrews 4:7 - again he appoints a certain day, Today, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, **Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.**

God puts the fear of Him into the elect's heart.

Jeremiah 32:40 - I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And **I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.** (ESV)

I still think there is co-operation by the believer before and after spiritual regeneration.

Having heard the truth, the Spirit sanctifies us through our obedience to the Spirit, and are we are conformed to holiness, not to impurity:

I Peter 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

We purify ourselves as we have faith in Jesus:

I John 3:3 - And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Having purified ourselves by obedience to the truth:

This here says we must obey for the sake of purification of our souls even after being born-again:

I Peter 1:22-23 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

And Jesus instructs us to have an obedient heart if we want to know that Jesus' teaching is from God:

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

64.3 God loved us first

I John 4:8-11 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Isaiah 64:8 - But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. (ESV)

64.3.1 God's love is greater

Romans 8:35 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Romans 8:39 - nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

64.4 God was faithful to us first

64.4.1 God's faithfulness is greater

Romans 3:3-4 - What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.

II Timothy 2:13 - if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

Today <2024-06-02 Sun> in the morning I got a picture of the Star of David. To me that means: "God is faithful".

Song Amy Grant - El-Shaddai

I still get encouragements such as this from God.

I also got a bunch of pictures of my family.

64.4.2 We can rest in God and don't need to trust in our own understanding too much

Psalms 131:1-3 - O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. A Song of Ascents. Of David. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. (ESV)

In following Jesus, the Apostles were perplexed sometimes:

II Corinthians 4:8 - We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; (ESV)

That's because we don't have the full picture:

I Corinthians 13:9 - For we know in part and we prophesy in part, (ESV)

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (ESV)

God has made Christ Jesus our wisdom:

I Corinthians 1:30 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom **God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.** (ESV)

64.5 The Way is available for everyone, but not everyone ends up walking it

Jesus made the Way - He **is** the Way:

Romans 5:18-19 - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience **the many** will be made righteous.

- for all men
- the many

64.6 We have free will, but the Holy Spirit helps us and dwells with us and comes to be in us

We can't come to Jesus unless Father God draws us to Jesus. While it is true that we need God to draw us, I believe we should still choose Jesus, and follow Jesus as Jesus' sheep:

John 6:44 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

We're supposed to do the will of God from the heart:

Ephesians 6:6 - not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

When we hear Jesus' voice, we must open the door. We have free will to receive or reject Jesus - we must be obedient believers:

Revelation of John 3:20 - Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (ESV)

It was unbelief which led to these people's sin of idolatry and covetousness which prevented them from entering into God's rest:

Hebrews 3:7-15 - Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways. As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest. Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:7-11 - again he appoints a certain day, Today, saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

It was **idolatry** that was the disobedience which prevented these from entering into God's rest:

I Corinthians 10:1-14 - I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as

some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test**, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (ESV)

If you keep Jesus' commandments then the Spirit of Truth will come to you, and help you, and be in you. If we obey Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us, even before He's inside us:

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will **keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

Since the Holy Spirit dwells **with** us even before He is **in** us, I do understand that the Holy Spirit may seem to be more force-like before the Holy Spirit dwells inside and we know Him as a person.

As an example, as I was talking to a couple of JWs this year, a leaflet containing the gospel message tumbled down the footpath and stopped at my feet. I picked it up and we conferred about it.

Paul was resisting the goading of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 26:14 - And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads. (ESV)

Being born of the Spirit is something which is genuinely unpredictable but we can sense its coming and going. It's not the same thing as getting someone to pray a sinner's prayer, for example, otherwise Jesus would not have used this analogy. We can sense it (hear it's sound. Me making testimony of being born of the Spirit is me making the sound, I guess), but we don't know where it comes from or where it goes:

John 3:3-8 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but **you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.** So it is with everyone who is **born of the Spirit.** (ESV)

We should aim for Jesus' commandments to become unburdensome. So I would use the analogy of entering a current of water (like the Turtle Cruising in Finding Nemo) While **in** the Holy Spirit, Jesus' commandments should be unburdensome, and having the Holy Spirit **in us** helps us to keep Jesus' commandments even when we face resistance from the world. I believe that inside God's rest, that rest involves keeping God's commandments, we have Jesus' yoke, trusting and obeying Jesus and God helps us:

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

It appears there is evidence that we live by the Spirit even before we walk by the Spirit. We must **also** walk by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-25 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And **those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (ESV)

I John 3:2-7 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure**. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)

We obey Jesus to be saved:

Hebrews 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

We obey Jesus to receive the Holy Spirit:

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit**, whom God has given to those who obey him.

Jesus certainly suggests here that by believing and obeying Jesus' commandments, we can receive the Holy Spirit. Walking by Jesus' words and commandments is walking by the Spirit:

John 6:63-65 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

This definitely indicates that we should try to keep Jesus Christ's commandments even before receiving the Holy Spirit inside of us.

64.7 We have free will. We must believe God

We may ask God for a willing spirit:

Psalms 51:10-12 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a **willing** spirit. (ESV)

Obedience is good:

Psalms 40:6-8 - Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: **I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.** (ESV)

There is intellectual belief and there is experiential belief, and we could have both, by having both belief and obedience to Jesus. To believe, we must be seeking God, not glory from one another:

John 5:44 - How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

Nevertheless, if a person hears the word of Christ, and believes the word of Christ, they are believing the truth, and a natural consequence of that should be the development of faith because while believing the truth, other things become more apparent:

- youtube.com: Spiritual Warfare: How to Put on the Armor of God @time: 1 min 35 sec

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing through the word of Christ.** (ESV)

The Scriptures say Abraham believed God, and it doesn't say God believed God. We must believe God:

Romans 4:3 - For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. (ESV)

The Scriptures say Abraham obeyed God - we must become obedient believers:

Genesis 26:5 - because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (ESV)

Also, in advance of being given the promise, Abraham was faithful to God:

Genesis 14:23 - that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich.

That is when God rewarded Abraham for Abraham's faithfulness, with a promise:

Genesis 15:1-6 - After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great. But Abram said, O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir. And he brought him outside and said, Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. Then he said to him, So shall your offspring be. And he believed (539. aman) the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Rewards are for people who choose to do the right thing.

It doesn't say, God rewarded God. God said that Abraham's reward shall be very great. God rewarded Abraham.

64.8 Seeking God

Blessed are those who like being around Jesus and trust Him:

Luke 7:23 - And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.

Blessed are those who have believed before having come to see and know for certain:

John 20:29 - Jesus said to him, Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. (ESV)

Blessed are those who ask and seek for a blessing:

Matthew 7:7-8 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

64.9 Run the race

Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

I Corinthians 9:24 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

Luke 13:24 - Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Galatians 5:7 - You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? (ESV)

Philippians 3:13-14 - Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:6-9 - For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon.

64.9.1 Steadfastness

James 1:1-4 - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (ESV)

II Peter 1:5-10 - For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was **cleansed from his former sins**. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (ESV)

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (ESV)

James 5:11 - Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. (ESV)

Titus 2:1-8 - But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

Colossians 1:21-23 - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (ESV)

64.10 God has planned in advance our salvation

64.10.1 Grace alone - sola gratia (by grace alone) AMEN!!

I Corinthians 1:30 - But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, (NASB)

Ephesians 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, (ESV)

Ephesians 1:4-5 - just as He chose (**G1586 eklegomai**) us in Him before (G4253 pro) the foundation of the world (G2889 kosmos), that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined (**G4309 proorizo**) us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention (G2107 eudokia) of His will, (NASB)

1 : 1586 eklegomai ek-leg'-om-ahee
2
3 middle voice from 1537 and 3004 (in its primary sense); to
4 select:--make choice, choose (out), chosen.
5 see GREEK for 1537
6 see GREEK for 3004

1 : 4309 proorizo pro-or-id'-zo
2
3 from 4253 and 3724; to limit in advance, i.e. (figuratively)
4 predetermine:--determine before, ordain, predestinate.
5 see GREEK for 4253
6 see GREEK for 3724

In the fullness of time, all things in heaven and earth are united to God:

Ephesians 1:10 - as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Given that we have an inheritance, it's evident that God must have predestined us:

Ephesians 1:11-14 - In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The inheritance is salvation:

Hebrews 1:14 - Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (ESV)

64.11 We are fellow workers with God. It's by God's power that our work flourishes

Ephesians 3:16 - that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be **strengthened with power through his Spirit** in your inner being,

64.11.1 Without God we can do nothing

I Corinthians 3:6-9 - I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

John 1:3 - All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (ESV)

We work in God's field:

John 4:34-38 - Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.

64.11.2 God's power through Jesus, through the man's faith in Jesus' name made the man walk

Acts 3:12 - And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? (KJV)

The man had faith - faith enters into the truth / receives from God:

Acts 3:5-8 - And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene— walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Through Peter, Jesus made the man walk through Jesus' own power and Jesus' holiness:

Acts 3:6-7,11-12 - But Peter said, I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk! And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? (ESV)

The faith which comes through Jesus which the man had in Jesus' name is what healed the man:

Acts 3:16 - And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

There are other instances of this - it's faith in Jesus which makes a person well and receives forgiveness and salvation from Jesus:

Mark 5:34 - And he said to her, Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease. (ESV)

Luke 7:47-50 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven-for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. And he said to her, Your sins are forgiven. Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, Who is this, who even forgives sins? And he said to the woman, Your faith has saved you; go in peace. (ESV)

65 Father God

Amos 5:8 - He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name; (ESV)

1 6213 3598 3685 2015
2 'ō·séh kî·māh ū·k̄e·sîl, wə·hō·p̄ēk
3
4 He made the Pleiades and Orion and He turns
5 V-Qal-Prtcpl-msc N-fs Conj-w | N-ms Conj-w | V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms

1 1242 6757 3117 3915
2 lab·bō·qer sal·mā·wet, wə·yō·wm lay·lāh
3
4 into morning the shadow of death and the day as night
5 Prep-l, Art | N-ms N-ms Conj-w | N-ms N-ms

1 2821 7121 4325
2 heh·šīk; haq·qō·w·rē lə·mē-
3
4 makes dark He calls for the waters
5 V-Hifil-Perf-3ms Art | V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms Prep-l | N-mpc

1 3220 8210
2 hay·yām, way·yiš·pə·kēm
3
4 of the sea and pours them out
5 Art | N-ms Conj-w | V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms | 3mp

1 5921 6440 776 3068 8034
2 'al- pə·nē hā·'ā·res Yah·weh šə·mōw. s
3
4 on the face of the earth Yahweh [is] His name -
5 Prep N-cpc Art | N-fs N-proper-ms N-msc | 3ms Punc

II Chronicles 15:3-4 - For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law, but when in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them.

Jeremiah 10:10 - But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

Deuteronomy 10:14 - Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. (ESV)

Ephesians 3:9-11 - and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Romans 1:18-25 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness (763. *asebeia*) and unrighteousness (93. *adikia*) of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Deuteronomy 7:9 - Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: To Him Be Glory Forever

Romans 11:33-36 - Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or **who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (ESV)

65.1 Jesus is the Only Way to Father God

John 14:1-6 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going. Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

We must get to know God through knowing Jesus:

John 14:7-9 - If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. Philip said to him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father?

We want to know Jesus experientially because Jesus has made us His own:

Philippians 3:12 - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, **because Christ Jesus has made me his own.** (ESV)

A relationship is formed between the obedient person and God:

- Get to know Jesus by following His commandments and being obedient and willing to do God's will.
- But as we do God's will, God comes to know us (it's simultaneous):

Galatians 4:8-9 - Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

65.2 The life that Father God gave us is in His Son, Jesus Christ

I John 4:8-11 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might **live through him**. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

65.2.1 God made Himself knowable by sending Jesus Christ, who has made Father God known

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God is knowable through having faith in Jesus Christ:

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Exodus 33:18-23 - Moses said, Please show me your glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name The Lord. And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But, he said, you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live. And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.

Grace, mercy, and the eternal life which God has given us is in Jesus Christ. He is the bread of life:

II John 1:3 - Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

I John 5:11 - And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

I confess (G3670 homologeó) that God was acting through Jesus Christ of Nazareth as He walked the earth in the flesh, around 2000 years ago, and that God is still working through us who are in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:13 - for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (ESV)

John 10:32 - Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"

Even though Hebrews says that God rested on the 7th day and His works were finished, Jesus said that He and the Father are both working till now. So I guess that they are still working in a restful way. Having rested, continues to do good.

John 5:16-17 - And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I am working. (ESV)

So, yes, we must enter God's rest, but that doesn't mean never doing any more work for God again. It just means you've entered the rest of God. Had Paul entered into God's rest yet?

Romans 15:17 - In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. (ESV)

Does the labour of a preacher mean that he hasn't entered into God's rest? Of course not. That would be absurd.

I Timothy 5:17-18 - Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain, and, The laborer deserves his wages. (ESV)

In Christ Jesus, our labour is not in vain:

I Corinthians 15:56-58 - The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

Hebrews 4:9-10 - So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (ESV)

Our labour for the food that Christ gives us is salvific:

John 6:27 - Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for **the food that endures to eternal life**, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. (ESV)

Instead of labouring in futility, we labour instead in obedience to Christ:

We obey Jesus' commandments in faith and we persevere with that, striving to obey Jesus, striving to remain faithful to Jesus and at some point we enter rest which Jesus gives us. Our Master, Jesus, who we obey gives us the rest, and He gives it to us while we hold our faith in Him and abide in His commandments. OK so, living by total dependance on Jesus, giving yourself away to others, believing that Jesus will provide what we need as we continue trying to do the right thing by Jesus, can sometimes feel like living precariously when we lose faith, but it is not precarious. Like God providing manna in the wilderness to the Israelites and all the Israelites had to do was continue trusting and obeying God, and God provided what they needed, we too go through this phase where God is teaching us to depend on Him. But at some point we arrive in the "promised land" of rest as He sanctifies us and His commandments no longer feel burdensome. At some point, it starts to feel like not just trying to help others but now others helping us. We enter the promised land of God's rest together. That's how I think it generally works. But Jesus gives the rest, right? So there's no onus on us or command from Jesus to us to purposefully cease endeavouring to make spiritual sacrifices in order to enter this rest. As far as I understand, we continue obeying Jesus and Jesus grants the rest:

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (ESV)

We do end up resting completely from our labours when we die in the Lord:

Revelation of John 14:13 - And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write this: **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!** (ESV)

So, yes, we must enter God's rest, but after having done so, we have Christ's yoke, and the yoke is easy, but not nonexistent. The burden of Christ's yoke is light but not nonexistent. So having the yoke of the Lord doesn't mean never working again. It means doing good and not doing evil. It means being carried by Him to do His will. It takes endurance and striving to enter that rest.

Hebrews 4:11 - Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:36-39 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

Jesus' commandments become unburdensome as God sets up opportunities to do good and choose good and obey Jesus and empower us to do His will (*Hebrews 13:20-21), and to make pleasing spiritual sacrifices to Him.

I John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

I Peter 2:4-5 - As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, **to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

How to get there?

- Have faith in Jesus Christ Himself to receive the propitiation by His blood
 - **Romans 3:21-26** - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)
- Practice the commandments of Christ in the Truth
 - **I John 1:7** - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)
- Jesus Christ's blood is sanctifying and has the power to kill sin and the power to transform us into His image, thinking godly thoughts, doing His will, doing God's will
 - **John 17:19** - And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)
 - **Hebrews 10:29** - How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? (ESV)
- Hold on to our confession
 - **Hebrews 6:12** - so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (ESV)
- Be wise to what is good and innocent to evil. Let God crush satan under your feet
 - **Romans 16:19-20** - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)
- Take every thought captive for obedience to Christ Jesus. Do battle against satan to conform your mind to the mind of Christ through obedience to Christ
 - **II Corinthians 10:3-6** - For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

- Be fully assured in all the will of God. Do all the will of God for us
 - **Colossians 4:12** - Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. (ESV)
- Bring holiness to completion - be on that path of killing sin
 - **II Corinthians 7:1** - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

The rest we enter is doing the will of God, empowered by God, having been cleaned up, sanctified, at least somewhat towards perfection / completion:

I Corinthians 6:9-11 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

65.2.2 The testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son

Whoever has faith in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.

I John 5:9-13 - If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes (G4100 pisteuōn - is believing (verb)) in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

65.2.3 We must be in Him, Jesus Christ

I John 5:18-20 - We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

We know that we abide in Him because He has given us of His Spirit:

James 1:17 - Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

I John 4:13-17 - By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Acts 2:33 - Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the **Holy Spirit**, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

For the day of judgement, we must seek to:

- abide in His love
- be loving as He loves

We should be like Jesus while we are in this world:

I John 4:16-17 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Abide in His love:

I John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Be loving as He loves:

II John 1:4-6 - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

There are those who have faith, and those who betray. Betrayal is counter to having faith. Faith includes belief, obedience and faithfulness:

John 6:63-65 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

65.2.4 Father God was always with Jesus

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (ESV)

John 16:25-32- I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father. His disciples said, Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God. Jesus answered them, Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

65.2.5 Our will must be aligned with God's will - We start by desiring to do His will

So put into practice Jesus Christ's commandments, and line up your will line up with God's will:

I John 5:14-15 - And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

III John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

We must be imitators of Christ Jesus. See what Paul is doing as an example of imitating Christ. We repent from sin, we do what God says, we are accountable to God with His precepts and are doers of His commandments, we forgive others as we've been forgiven and we love others as we've been loved, and we have our minds set on heavenly things and the promises of God. Our eschatological beliefs should not instill fear in us to forsake faith, obedience, love and hope in Jesus:

Philippians 3:12-21 - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as **enemies of the cross of Christ**. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with **minds set on earthly things**. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

If we love one another [as He loved us]:

I John 4:12 - No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

We must be drawn to Jesus Christ, who is the bread of life. We do the will of God and Jesus Christ will raise us on the last day:

John 6:44-48 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.

We must have faith in Jesus Christ and the words He has spoken:

John 6:57-58 - As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.

Don't betray Jesus. Continue walking with Jesus:

John 6:63-69 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe. (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.” After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, Do you want to go away as well? Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.

65.2.6 The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus

John 15:26 - “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220402091720/https://mullikine.github.io/posts/dream-the-way-the-truth/>

The Holy Spirit is a person, and is a He:

John 14:26 - But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

65.2.7 We must do God's will

John 4:32-34 - But he said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about. So the disciples said to one another, Has anyone brought him something to eat? Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. (ESV)

65.2.8 We must walk in His commandments

If we want God to make His home with us, we must keep Jesus' words, and obey His commandments:

John 14:23-25 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

In the following case, I think that obedience would have come before belief as if the disciples had loved Him then they would have rejoiced, but that Jesus explains things in advance so that we will believe when we see. Jesus tells us in advance that He goes to the Father, and will come to us, so that we will believe:

John 14:27-29 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, I am going away, and I will come to you. If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

Faith is a lifestyle. It's walking in the truth:

II John 1:4-6 - I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

God always preferred for people to walk in obedient, loving, faith to Him over offering burnt sacrifices to him while walking disobediently and faithlessly. Now we have Jesus we are redeemed to walk in obedient faith. We should not be presumptuous in our faith, but should listen to God, to see what He wants and believes is right and live according to His Word, His precepts, His commandments, His Truth. We should listen to God and base our faith on God's Word, and allow God to correct us:

I Samuel 15:22-26 - And Samuel said, Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king. Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said to Saul, I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel. (ESV)

Loving Jesus, obeying Jesus, and believing that He came from God are essential:

John 16:25-27- I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

65.2.9 The Holy Spirit is a He and brings to remembrance all the words of Jesus

As Jesus came in His Father's name, and spoke His Father's words, **the Holy Spirit** comes in Jesus' name and brings to remembrance all the words of Jesus:

John 14:26 - But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

The following verse was brought to my mind as I was sleeping:

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

65.2.10 Jesus is Immanuel, God with us

Matthew 1:18-25 - Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from **the Holy Spirit.** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. (ESV)

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (ESV)

Luke 1:35 - And the angel answered her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. (ESV)

65.2.11 The Word became flesh - Jesus Christ is the Word of God

Jesus is the Word of God become flesh:

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (ESV)

John 6:56 - Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. (ESV)

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, **disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

John 12:49-50 - For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

Revelation of John 19:11-13 - Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. (ESV)

Jesus' flesh was Word. The Word became flesh:

Ephesians 2:11-14 - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For **he himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and has **broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility** (ESV)

Romans 2:28-29 - For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and **circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. (ESV)

65.2.12 Yeshua, the Lion and the Lamb

Genesis 49:9 - Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? (ESV)

Isaiah 11:6 - The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. (ESV)

Isaiah 65:25 - The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says the LORD. (ESV)

65.2.13 Jesus returned to the Father

John 14:28 - You heard me say to you, I am going away, and I will come to you. If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. (ESV)

John 16:28 - I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

John 16:5 - But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, Where are you going? (ESV)

John 17:5 - And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (ESV)

Isaiah 55:11 - so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (ESV)

65.2.14 We also become one with the Father as we are kept in His name

John 17:11 - And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. (ESV)

65.2.15 We can know Father God directly, while Jesus tells us plainly about Father God

We must walk in Jesus' commandments and believe that He came from God.

John 16:25-28 - I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

65.3 We must agape love God, and our family in Christ and called to agape love even our enemies - How Christians agape love:

- https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm
- https://biblehub.com/greek/agapa_25.htm
- https://biblehub.com/greek/agapate_25.htm
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/26.htm>
- https://biblehub.com/greek/agape_n_26.htm

I Thessalonians 5:18 - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (ESV)

65.3.1 Who Christians *must* agape love

- God (Father God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit)
 - https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/matthew/22-37.htm>
 - **Matthew 22:37** - And He said to him You shall love (**25 Αγαπήσεις**) [the] Lord the God of you with all the heart of you and with all the soul of you and with all the mind of you (Interlinear)

- <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/john/14-23.htm>
- Your spouse
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/ephesians/5-28.htm>
- Others in Christ
 - **Colossians 3:13-14** - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)
 - **I John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)

65.3.2 Who Christians are called to agape love:

- All people, even enemies (those who hate you)
 - https://biblehub.com/greek/agapa_25.htm
 - <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/matthew/5-44.htm>
 - **Matthew 5:43-48** - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

We should honor and be respectful to everyone. But when we talk about the brotherhood, it means our family in Christ. We **must** love our family in Christ:

- **I Peter 2:17** - Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (ESV)
- **I John 4:19-21** - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

We should do good to all and try to love whoever is our neighbour. We must love our neighbour as ourself. That person could be family in Christ, and if they are then we **must** love them. So we have to endeavour to be blameless/innocent as the good Samaritan was. I am a firm believer that if someone is a confirmed family in Christ who loves Jesus, with the fear of God, someone who is being taught by Jesus, someone who is following Jesus, then we must certainly be prepared to share their burdens and share the world's goods with them, we must not neglect them, but support them. It would be sin to neglect family in Christ knowingly when they needed support. We should be supporting each-other to abide in Christ's teachings. As Jesus Christ said, "Let the children be fed first." What about loving those outside the church? We give grace to others, but not at the expense of our own children/family in Christ's basic needs. We must let our family in Christ "be fed first". OK, so an example: If family in Christ needs employment (they are willing to work, they're trying to do what God wants them to do, but being prevented by their fellow man from living as God would have them), and you as family in Christ have work that they can do, and they have asked you for it, then you must prioritise giving them the work above giving it to someone who is not confirmed family in Christ, otherwise it's sin:

- **Leviticus 19:18** - **You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD. (ESV)

- **Galatians 6:2-6** - Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. **One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.** (ESV)
- **I John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (ESV)
- Philip, an Evangelist in Brazil - We have to treat every single person that we encounter with the love of God as much as possible. We fall short, we make mistakes, we're not always at our best, but as much as possible. We provide a testimony.
- **Mark 7:27-29** - And he said to her, Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs. But she answered him, Yes, Lord; **yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.** And he said to her, For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.

We should not fear those who kill the body (mankind or Satan):

- **Matthew 10:28** - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (ESV)
- **Revelation of John 2:10** - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)
- **I Corinthians 5:5** - you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)
- **John 12:42** - Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; (ESV)

We should fear God, and hate evil. Even as concerns the gospel, we should be repentant, seeking God's mercy:

- **Luke 23:40** - But the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (ESV)
- **Proverbs 23:17** - Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 14:27** - The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 16:6** - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil. (ESV)
- **Job 1:1** - There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. (ESV)
- **Proverbs 8:13** - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (ESV)
- **Ecclesiastes 12:13** - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (ESV)
- **I Peter 2:17** - Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (ESV)

65.3.3 What Christians *must not* agape love

- https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_john/2-15.htm

Agape love must not be to anything of the world. Hate the sin but not the sinner (**Ezekiel 18:23**). Love people but love truth, and hate falsehood. Agape love without truth is not agape love:

Revelation of John 2:6 - Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (ESV)

Proverbs 24:24-25 - Whoever says to the wicked, You are in the right, will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations, but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them. (ESV)

Book timothykeller.com: Counterfeit Gods - Timothy Keller

Sermon youtube.com: Counterfeit Gods - Tim Keller

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:1-3 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (ESV)

Galatians 4:9 - But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:9-11 - I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (ESV)

I Corinthians 2:12 - Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (ESV)

There's a lot in the Bible to explain what is the revealed will of God:

Read videobible.com: 105 Scripture on God's Will - Video Bible

Continuing on in discerning the will of God we should have a renewed mind. We should obey Jesus:

youtube.com: How Do We Know the Will of God? | John Piper Clip {@desiringGod} The Bible does not tell you which person to marry, or whether to marry. The Bible does not tell you which car to drive, or buy, rent. The Bible doesn't tell you whether to buy a home or not which home to buy. [The] Bible doesn't tell you which brand of orange juice to drink. There are 10,000 decisions you must make that are not explicitly addressed in the Bible so what do you do? If you want to obey the will of command my answer is you must have a renewed mind. That's what the text says.

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

We end up thinking in a similar fashion to Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is what it means to be led by the Spirit. So you have to **do** the will of God, being a servant of Christ under the law of Christ, to have the blessing of not being condemned by the law of Moses:

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! **Let your good Spirit lead me** on level ground! (ESV)

Luke 11:43 - Woe to you Pharisees! For you love (**agapate**) the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. (ESV)

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

65.4 In a way, the Son is the Father as far as we can see because looking upon Jesus we see the Father, but the Father is greater

John 12:44-45 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. (ESV)

One thing is for sure, Jesus is the only way to the Father.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (NASB)

Isaiah 48:16-17 - Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there. And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit. Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. (ESV)

Matthew 3:16-17 - And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (ESV)

This quite clearly shows that the Truth is Jesus Christ is Almighty God and God is Father, Son (Jesus Christ, His Eternal Word, made flesh) and Holy Spirit:

Zechariah 12:10 - And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on **me, on him whom they have pierced**, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (ESV)

John 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

The Father abides in Jesus:

John 14:10 - Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. (NASB)

Jesus abides in the Father (and is in the bosom of the Father):

John 1:18 - No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (NASB)

Mark 14:27 - And Jesus said to them, You will all fall away, for it is written, I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. (ESV)

Zechariah 13:7 - Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the man who is My Companion, declares the LORD of Hosts. Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn My hand against the little ones. (engbsb2020eb)

Jesus Christ is at the Father's side (and has made Father God known):

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (ESV)

This says the Word was God. We can be sure that in the beginning there was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God, and that Jesus Christ is the Word:

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (ESV, NASB, KJV, BSB)

In Christ the Godhead is present: simply, it means that in human nature/form of Jesus, that entails the human flesh/body, there dwells the entirety of divine perfection:

Colossians 2:9-15 - For **in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily**, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

The Word actually **became** flesh:

John 1:14 - And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

Luke 24:39 - See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. (ESV)

Thomas saw God in Jesus Christ, or Jesus Christ as God:

John 20:28 - Thomas answered him, My Lord and my God! (ESV)

It's very clear that there is some distinction between Father and Son:

John 20:17 - Jesus said to her, Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. (ESV)

John 7:16 - So Jesus answered them, My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. (ESV)

But Jesus Christ is our Mediator:

I Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (ESV)

Jesus still refers to Father God as His God:

Revelation of John 3:12 - The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (ESV)

I think this really clears things up a little bit:

Revelation of John 3:21 - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as **I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.** (ESV)

John 16:32 - Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. (ESV)

Jesus came in Father God's name:

John 5:43 - I have come in my Father's name (**onomati**), and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. (ESV)

John 10:25 - Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,

Revelation of John 14:1 - Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144, 000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

The Father is with the Son, the Father is in the Son, and the Son in the Father:

John 10:30 - I and the Father are one.

The Father is not specifically the Son (Jesus Christ), at least in title, but Jesus is the Word, and the Word is God, and I think Jesus Christ is still the Father in the sense that Jesus Christ is in the Father, and the Father in the Son, but there still seems to be some distinction there between persons or titles, and to be honest, I'm just trying to rationalise this and understand how this fits together and don't presume to know everything with certainty.

And Jesus came in the Father's name.

God was revealed in Jesus Christ for us.

65.5 God adopts children, fellow heirs with Christ

The sons of God on earth who are being adopted by God:

- are led by the Spirit
 - obeying Jesus Christ
 - crucified the flesh with its passions and desires
- are sons of Abraham, with the faith of Abraham
 - demonstrating the faith that Abraham had
- have had faith in Jesus Christ's name
- suffer with Christ in order to be glorified with Him
- await their adoption as sons when our bodies are redeemed
- have the creation eagerly longing for their revealing
- have heard God and had faith

Since the Holy Spirit dwells **with** us even before He is **in** us, I do understand that the Holy Spirit may seem to be more force-like before the Holy Spirit dwells inside and we know Him as a person.

It appears there is evidence that we live by the Spirit even before we walk by the Spirit. We must **also** walk by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-25 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And **those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (ESV)

Walking by the Spirit I believe looks like following Jesus' commandments:

Romans 8:14-23 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (ESV)

To those who had faith in His name:

Acts 3:16 - And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

John the Baptist came as a witness to the Light that is Jesus Christ, so that through John the Baptist's testimony, all might come to faith:

John 1:6-7 - There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness (G3141 marturia), to testify (G3140 martureo) about the Light, so that all might believe (G4100 pisteuo) through him. (NASB)

Jesus Christ is received through faith:

John 1:12 - But to all who did receive (G2983 lambano) him, who believed (G4100 pisteuo) in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (ESV)

1 : 2983 lambano lam-ban'-o
2
3 a prolonged form of a primary verb, which is used only as an alternate
4 in certain tenses; to take (in very many applications, literally and
5 figuratively (properly objective or active, to get hold of; whereas
6 1209 is rather subjective or passive, to have offered to one; while
7 138 is more violent, to seize or remove)):--accept, + be amazed,
8 assay, attain, bring, X when I call, catch, come on (X unto), +
9 forget, have, hold, obtain, receive (X after), take (away, up).
10 see GREEK for 1209
11 see GREEK for 138

Receiving is a mixture of believing, obeying, trusting, believing to receive - as Abraham's faith was. The faith to receive Jesus, getting to know Him I think is a span of time (it could be instantaneous to a lengthy period of time), I presume, as a person continues to trust Him:

Romans 4:9-12 - Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Galatians 3:7 - Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

Galatians 3:9 - So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (ESV)

Romans 8:19 - For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. (ESV)

Galatians 3:3-6 - Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness?

We are to be conformed into Christ's image:

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (ESV)

It makes sense to me that being conformed into Christ's image and knowing Father God and Jesus Christ who God has sent would be contemporaneous:

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

Jude 1:25 - to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (ESV)

Mark 10:35-45 - And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you. And he said to them, What do you want me to do for you? And they said to him, **Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.** Jesus said to them, You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized? And they said to him, We are able. And Jesus said to them, The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but **to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.** And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (ESV)

65.6 Inheriting the promises made to Abraham and to Christ

The promises were made to Abraham and to Christ:

Galatians 3:16 - Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, And to offsprings, referring to many, but referring to one, And to your offspring, who is Christ.

But through the faith of Abraham in Jesus Christ, we inherit the promises because we have faith in Jesus Christ:

Galatians 3:22 - But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Christ is formed in us, after all:

Galatians 4:18-19 - It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

In Christ Jesus, through faith, we are sons:

Galatians 3:25-26 - But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

We put on Christ when we are baptized into Christ:

Galatians 3:27 - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Ephesians 4:4-5 - There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (ESV)

If you are Christ's (in Christ) then you are Abraham's offspring:

Galatians 3:29 - And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 4:4-9 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

The ones who love God, even demonstrated by repenting from sin and away from the course of this world, God gives to Jesus:

John 17:6 - I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

John 17:9 - I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

With the light of truth, people may go from darkness to light:

John 12:36 - While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

The world (the remaining people, who have not repented) may know that Father God has sent Jesus and loved Jesus' disciples:

John 17:23 - I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Ephesians 2:2 - in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

66 Father God has always abode in and through Jesus through all of God's work, even as Jesus walked the earth in the flesh. Jesus is the Word

John 14:10 - Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. (ESV)

Proverbs 8:22-23 - The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. (ESV)

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** (ESV)

John 10:18 - No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. (ESV)

Luke 11:47-51 - Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also **the Wisdom of God said**, I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:30 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom **God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.** (ESV)

67 Sun's light failing as the curtain was torn and Jesus died

Mark 15:37-39 - And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God! (ESV)

Matthew 27:51 - And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. (ESV)

Mark 15:38 - And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. (ESV)

Luke 23:43-46 - And he said to him, Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit! And having said this he breathed his last. (ESV)

Hebrews 6:19-20 - We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:11-15 - But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:12-14 - But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:19-20 - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, (ESV)

68 Jesus rose from the dead and ascended by His own authority given to Him by Father God. Amen

Luke 24:1-7 - But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they

entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” (ESV)

Luke 24:25-26 - And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? (ESV)

Luke 24:38-49 - And he said to them, Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, Have you anything here to eat? They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. Then he said to them, These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. (ESV)

Jesus, by His own authority, rose from the dead. AMEN!!

Sermon youtube.com: Message To All Christians @time: 2 min 54 sec

John 10:17-18 - For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. (ESV)

68.1 Ascension

Luke 24:50-53 - And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God. (ESV)

Acts 1:1-12 - The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by **the Holy Spirit** given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with **the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when **the Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. (ESV)

69 Armour of God / Armour of Light

Ephesians 6:11-13 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (ESV)

- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit
- Prayer
- Lamp

69.1 Love and holiness

Question Can a person at the same time (1) put on the Lord Jesus Christ and (2) make provision for the flesh to gratify its desires and walk in orgies and drunkenness, sexual immorality, sensuality, quarreling and jealousy?

Likely best answer A son of disobedience is a person who is not obedient to God, to God's gospel, someone who does not have true faith which loves the truth. We're told to disassociate with "unrepentant" people (**II Corinthians 6:14-18,7:1**) who are described as unbelievers. We want to be received as sons and daughters so we need ourselves to desire, love, treasure, the light and not the darkness. The unrepentant, I believe will receive God's wrath because light has come into the world and they love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. There is a final judgement (**II Corinthians 5:10-11**).

I believe that the armour of light which Paul wants us to putting on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:5-12 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for **the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true**), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. (ESV)

Romans 13:12-14 - The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ certainly involves putting on love:

I Peter 2:5 - you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:15-16 - Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:2 - And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (ESV)

Being light in the Lord Jesus, and everything being plainly exposed, we should put a stop to the deeds of darkness. Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed:

Ephesians 5:7-17 - Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (ESV)

Romans 13:11-12 - Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. (ESV)

We don't want wrath!

Ephesians 5:5-6 - For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (ESV)

69.2 Belt of Truth

Message youtube.com: C S Lewis message 2024 - Faith in action God fights for you, but you must also act
@time: 13 min 7 sec

CS Lewis - Think of it as the sturdy belt a soldier wears, holding everything in place.

The Truth serves as the foundation of our spiritual lives, anchoring us in a world full of deceptions and falsehoods.

It is the Word of God that anchors us and sets us free, as Jesus said in John 8:32.

Then there is the breastplate of righteousness.

This piece of armour protects our hearts against the enemy's attacks.

It is a reminder of the righteousness we have through Christ, not because of anything we have done, but because of His sacrifice on the cross.

It is about living in obedience and integrity, knowing that we are clothed in His righteousness.

Ephesians 6:14 - Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt of truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, (ESV)

Ephesians 5:9 - (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), (ESV)

A comprehensive and broad understanding of the Bible is certainly important so we are not "tossed around by every wind of doctrine", and to grow into and become established in the knowledge of Jesus, and able to not be tossed around when people ask questions about doctrine (I have often felt tested in this way, and sometimes unprepared), and that is why I am writing this Bible study out:

69.2.1 Belts of righteousness, faithfulness

Isaiah 11:5 - Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (ESV)

69.2.2 We are fighting against lawlessness

II Thessalonians 2:9-13 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (ESV)

Daniel 7:25-26 - He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. (ESV)

I Peter 1:2 - according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (ESV)

We must have belief in the truth while being sanctified by the Spirit through faith.

69.3 Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate of righteousness is a breastplate of faith and love. We have faith in Jesus Christ who died for our sins and we love one-another, and we have hope of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ:

I Thessalonians 5:1-10 - Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.** (ESV)

69.3.1 Imputed righteousness - The righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ.

Imputed righteousness is a positional righteousness that comes from being found "in Christ". An analogy I like is the ambulance analogy. Being in Christ, at least initially is like being placed into an ambulance. So long as you are in the ambulance, you can't die, and are getting healthier (being brought to God, getting closer to God, getting better at keeping God's commandments, dying to sin, and living to righteousness). Perhaps another OK analogy is like a gym membership which Jesus has bought.

Philippians 3:9-13 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make

it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

Dismas (the penitent thief/criminal on one of the crosses next to Jesus's cross) had faith in Jesus. Dismas received Jesus. Jesus gifted justification to Dismas. And God is just to justify Dismas. Likewise God is just when He justifies those who God determines has faith in Jesus.

The Law Maker, The LORD God Jehovah doesn't violate His law when He justifies the ungodly.

Exodus 23:7 - Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked. (ESV)

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (ESV)

So how can God forgive sinners while still being the perfectly just God He is, and not violating His own laws? For those who are found in Christ, Jesus bore their penalty, the penalty of the Law's righteous demands. This is how Jesus forgave the thief on the cross. Not by being above the Law, but by bearing the laws demands on Himself!! This is the Good News!!

Romans 3:20-26,31 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)

Colossians 2:9-15 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. **And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (ESV)

The following passage here doesn't say that Jesus is above the Law. But it does say that "something greater than the temple is here":

Matthew 12:1-8 - At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath. He said to them, Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath. (ESV)

Jesus kept fulfilling the law doing what is lawful, doing good:

Matthew 12:10-13 - And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?—so that they might accuse him. He said to them, Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. Then he said to the man, Stretch out your hand. And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. (ESV)

For those in Christ, Jesus bears their/our sins:

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree — so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:22-28 - Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages **to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself**. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, **having been offered once to bear the sins of many**, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (ESV)

I need to do more studies on the theology behind John Piper's message here:

Watch youtube.com: Rest for Your Soul {@desiringGod}

My only sure confidence as far as justification goes is the external righteousness that I have in Jesus through faith in Jesus recognising the commandment to the obedience of faith in Jesus and that God is just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus, so that is an external righteousness not of my own but I recognise that God is the one who justifies. This is how I'm resting on the finished work of the cross.

I also recognise the command to further obedience to God, not just the command to the obedience of faith in Jehovah God and Jesus but also the command to agape love God and my neighbour, and the commandment of repentance towards God and faith in Jesus and also the commandment to serve and obey and worship God and to stop serving and obeying sin.

Philippians 3:9 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— (ESV)

Ephesians 6:14 - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (ESV)

Isaiah 59:17-18 - He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:30 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (ESV)

https://www.reddit.com/r/PrayerTeam_amen/comments/1h5qmbn/jesus_dropped_the_charges/ When the devil brings up your past, remind him that Jesus dropped the charges.

Yeah man. Amen. Knowing Jesus dropped the charges, and then wanting to turn a new leaf, the devil comes along against and tries to make me think my efforts to turn away from sin is working for justification.... Also, wanting to turn a new leaf and sell my possessions and give to the poor, the devil comes along and tries to deter me, even through people trying to make me afraid of "testing God" by trusting God, even though Jesus said that our Heavenly Father takes care of us. Then when I refuse to go back into lewd habits of my past, the devil puts these dreams in my head and attack my mind and body as I'm sleeping. It's a battle... But Jesus dropped the charges. I was born-again 2 years ago and though I have had to be corrected reading the Scripture, but I still do not feel condemned. I have faith in Jesus. I'm trying to continue to be obedient to Jesus. I still make mistakes but I believe I have a righteousness that is not in me - it's outside of me, it's Jesus. And I'm happy that in this situation I'm able to continue doing battle against sin and against the devil while Jesus is advocating for me, his blood is sanctifying me and Jesus is preparing me to stand before Father God.

69.3.2 Personal holiness righteousness - Godliness

Godly people adorn themselves with good works:

I Timothy 2:8-10 - I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, **not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.** (ESV)

Revelation of John 19:7-8 - Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is **the righteous deeds of the saints.** (ESV)

1 Clem 33:7 We have seen that all the righteous were adorned in good works. Yea, and the Lord Himself having adorned Himself with worlds rejoiced.

Cast off the works of darkness and put on the **armor of light**:

Romans 13:12-14 - The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us **cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.** Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.** (ESV)

Live in the spirit the way God does:

I Peter 4:1-6 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might **live in the spirit the way God does.** (ESV)

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has

done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

youtube.com: Unstained from the World: The Battle for Purity - Tim Conway @time: 16 min 34 sec

Unspotted by the world is mainly a mind thing.

Listen what Paul says, "Do not be conformed to this world."

That's the issue. Don't be spotted by it. Don't be conformed to it.

But be transformed by the renewal of your mind. You see where the battle is?

Brethren, to be unspotted from the world, this is largely for us to be unspotted by the ways that this world thinks, its theories, its belief systems. We're talking **strongholds of thought** and Brethren, you know what, you had a world out there and it's like they have this fortification around their head, around their thoughts, around how they think, and they live in it.

And they're trapped in these things and our responsibility is to seek to come and dash these things. John MacArthur says, heard him say that these things become their tombs. They die in there.

Oh, they appear so lofty, scientific, intelligent, intellectual. This all seems good, and you know what Paul said, listen you know what he said? Every lofty opinion, we destroy arguments, every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God. It's all against the knowledge of God. You see what people are fortifying themselves with? Systems that are anti-god, anti-christ and, listen, to the degree you imbibe this, the way the world thinks, you're stained by it, you're adulterated by it.

We got to get the world's ideologies out of our mind and stop being double-headed, stop being adulterated in the mind. You know what we're striving after? Your virginity of the mind.

69.4 Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

The readiness to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people, and also live out the Gospel.

Ephesians 6:15 - and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. (ESV)

Isaiah 52:7 - How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, Your God reigns. (ESV)

Romans 10:15 - And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news! (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:18-21 - All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

69.5 Shield of Faith

Maintaining faithfulness to God, and our trust in God, God fights for us and is our shield.

Psalms 18:30 - God! perfect is His way, The saying of Jehovah is tried, A shield is He to all those trusting in Him. (YLT)

Ephesians 6:16 - In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; (ESV)

I Peter 5:8-9 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (ESV)

I John 5:4-5 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (ESV)

Psalms 56:3-4 - When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? (ESV)

Having faith in God, we have our shield:

Genesis 15:1 - After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great. (ESV)

69.6 Helmet of Salvation

Our hope of salvation which we have in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:17 - and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, (ESV)

Isaiah 59:17 - He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

69.7 Sword of the Spirit

69.7.1 Apply the word of God to combat lies

Ephesians 6:17 - and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, (ESV)

69.7.2 Believe the truth

Matthew 4:4 - But he answered, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (ESV)

69.7.3 Keep a clean heart with God

Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (ESV)

Acts 24:14-16 - But this I confess (G3670 homologeo) to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. (ESV)

69.7.4 Repent

Revelation of John 19:15 - From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:16 - Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. (ESV)

Hosea 6:5 - Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. (ESV)

69.8 Prayer

An example of a prayer - short and sweet:

Genesis 24:12 - And he said, O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. (ESV)

Another example:

Daniel 2:20-23 - Daniel answered and said: Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:18 - praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:17 - pray without ceasing, (ESV)

Colossians 4:2 - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (ESV)

I Timothy 2:1 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, (ESV)

Philippians 4:6 - do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (ESV)

Jude 1:20 - But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the **Holy Spirit**; (ESV)

Romans 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (ESV)

69.9 Lamp

Awaiting the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ, prepare our hearts, waiting for Jesus to knock, ready for action.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. But we know it's coming, so we'll be ready for it:

I Thessalonians 5:4-5 - But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. (ESV)

Keep shining your light, maintaining a heart of service, and do good works of faith to glorify God, as we put our hope fully on the mercy and grace from Jesus Christ:

I Peter 1:13 - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jesus will serve His servants who are awake:

Luke 12:33-37 - Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will **dress himself for service** and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. (ESV)

Matthew 23:11 - The greatest among you shall be your servant. (ESV)

69.10 Armour of God - CS Lewis notes

[youtube.com: C S Lewis message 2024 - Faith in action God fights for you, but you must also act @time: 12 min 35 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

69.10.1 Belt of Truth

Think of it as the study belt a soldier wears, holding everything in place. The Truth serves as the foundation of our spiritual life, anchoring us in a world full of deceptions and falsehoods. It is the word of God that anchors us and sets us free.

69.10.2 Breastplate of Righteousness

Protects our hearts against the enemy's attacks. It is a reminder of the righteousness we have through Christ, not because of anything we have done. It is about living in obedience and integrity, knowing that we are clothed in His righteousness.

69.10.3 Shoes of Peace

These are not just ordinary shoes. They symbolise our readiness to share the good news of peace with others. In a world torn by conflict and turmoil, we carry the message of reconciliation and hope wherever we go. It is the peace that comes with knowing Christ as mentioned in **Philippians 4:7**.

Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

69.10.4 Shield of Faith

Faith comes in as our shield against the fiery darts of the enemy. It is not just a passive belief but an active trust in God's promises. With faith, we can extinguish every arrow of doubt, fear and temptation. We hold our ground, secure in God's love as **Romans 8:38-39** assures us.

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

69.10.5 Helmet of salvation

The **Helmet of salvation** is what protects our minds from the enemy's lies and doubts:

- Reminds us of the certainty we have in Christ
 - The assurance of our salvation
 - Our hope
 - Our eternal inheritance

With this helmet we stand firm in our identity as children of God, redeemed and forgiven.

So, spirits redeemed, then bodies redeemed and in between is sanctification which involves us obeying Jesus in faith:

Ephesians 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (ESV)

Luke 21:28 - Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (ESV)

Romans 8:23 - And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (ESV)

We cannot forget the **Sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. This is not just any weapon, but it is our offensive tool in spiritual battles, just as Jesus did in the wilderness.

We use scripture to demolish strongholds and take every thought captive for Christ as mentioned in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5:

II Corinthians 10:4-5 - For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (ESV)

youtube.com: Unstained from the World: The Battle for Purity - Tim Conway @time: 16 min 34 sec

Unspotted by the world is mainly a mind thing.

Listen what Paul says, "Do not be conformed to this world."

That's the issue. Don't be spotted by it. Don't be conformed to it.

But be transformed by the renewal of your mind. You see where the battle is?

Brethren, to be unspotted from the world, this is largely for us to be unspotted by the ways that this world thinks, its theories, its belief systems. We're talking **strongholds of thought** and Brethren, you know what, you had a world out there and it's like they have this fortification around their head, around their thoughts, around how they think, and they live in it.

And they're trapped in these things and our responsibility is to seek to come and dash these things. John MacArthur says, heard him say that these things become their tombs. They die in there.

Oh, they appear so lofty, scientific, intelligent, intellectual. This all seems good, and you know what Paul said, listen you know what he said? Every lofty opinion, we destroy arguments, every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God. It's all against the knowledge of God. You see what people are fortifying themselves with? Systems that are anti-god, anti-christ and, listen, to the degree you imbibe this, the way the world thinks, you're stained by it, you're adulterated by it.

We got to get the world's ideologies out of our mind and stop being double-headed, stop being adulterated in the mind. You know what we're striving after? Your virginity of the mind.

I want to let the Bible smash bad theology - not just my own bad theology.

Not by our own strength, but by God's power. God equips and enables us to stand firm so in the midst of every spiritual battle, let us stand strong with the armour He has provided.

In spiritual warfare we are also confronted with situations where we have to make choices on our actions to side with God:

Daniel 1:8-14 - But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king. Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see. So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. (ESV)

youtube.com: Chosen Ones Why People Start To Act STRANGE Around You The minute God calls you now you start to know people start to act strange and start to move different. There's a reason behind that. Everything that's taking place in your life, guys, is all spiritual. We have Spirits working through individuals. This is why I tell people all the time you're not dealing with the individual, you are dealing with the spirit behind [them].

70 Solae

I am covered by the Blood of Jesus Christ. My trust is in Jesus. I am justified by faith in Jesus Christ who has set me free from the law of sin and death. The law of the spirit of life in Christ has set me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (ESV)

Trusting and obeying Jesus' words and commandments, a person has life:

John 6:63 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

Obedience is not strictly the same thing as works. Obedience is a heart attitude and we are to be obedient to Christ's teachings:

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (ESV)

Romans 6:16-18 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

We're under the law (commandments) of Christ:

I Corinthians 9:21 - To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law (G1772 ennomos) of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. (ESV)

In Christ I am justified by His blood as I have placed by faith in Him and continue to trust Him and obey Him. He takes care of me.

God has made Christ Jesus our wisdom:

I Corinthians 1:30 - He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom **God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.** (ESV)

My justification and salvation are absolutely reliant on Him and He is faithful even when I am unfaithful. Obeying Jesus is not contrary to faith in Jesus but gives me confidence before God. AMEN!!

I John 3:21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

I John 3:18-19 - Little children, let us not **love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.** By this we shall know that we are of the truth and **reassure our heart before him;** (ESV)

I believe in all of theses:

- **sola fida** (by faith alone) AMEN!!
 - The justifying faith may include 'acts of faith', which is just visible, working faith.
 - Works done outside of faith **do not** qualify for justification.
- **sola gratia** (by grace alone) AMEN!!
- **sola scriptura** (by Scripture alone) AMEN!!
 - For faith and practice, the Holy Scriptures are authority. Not church councils, not tradition, not popes.
- **Solus Christus** AMEN!!
- **Soli Deo gloria** (glory to God alone) AMEN!! But the glory God gives us glorifies God.

God's Word must be the authority. Because we want to be corrected by God and grow in the knowledge of Him. Not just "academically" but experientially:

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. (ESV)

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (ESV)

To believe, we must be seeking God, not glory from one another:

John 5:44 - How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

I'm using the Word of God and doing this Bible study to tread on serpents. Thanks Jesus for giving me authority to do that:

Luke 10:19 - Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. (ESV)

John 7:18 - The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

I'm honestly just trying to combat falsehood by reading and applying the Scriptures in a way where I'm responding to promptings from **the Holy Spirit** and taking every thought captive to obey Christ, and I want to honour Jesus and honour God, and not bury my talent. So I hope my Bible study has been helpful. And all glory to God.

II Corinthians 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Matthew 25:22-23 - And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.

71 Glorification

Jesus sent us. We seek to glorify Jesus. We seek to glorify our Master. We seek to glorify God. We seek to be found in Jesus. We seek the glorification that comes from being found in our Master, Jesus Christ.

John 7:18 - The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

We must abide in Jesus. God doesn't give glory to anyone else. God is love and God is Jehovah and God is Father God and Jesus Christ who He sent:

Isaiah 42:8 - I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. (ESV)

I'm using the Word of God and doing this Bible study to tread on serpents. Thanks Jesus for giving me authority to do that:

Luke 10:19 - Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. (ESV)

The glory comes from God:

John 5:44 - How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (ESV)

Psalms 73:24 - You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

God glorifies Jesus:

John 5:41 - I do not receive glory from people.

John 8:54 - Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God.

God glorifies Himself through glorifying Jesus through working through Jesus. The power comes from God:

John 11:4 - But when Jesus heard it he said, This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

John 13:32 - If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

Jesus glorifies us, provided we suffer for His sake, by working through us to do God's work which also glorifies Jesus and glorifies God:

John 14:13 - Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 15:8 - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

John 17:10-11 - All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. (ESV)

Romans 8:17 - and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

The Spirit whom those who have faith in Jesus receive works through us:

John 7:39 - Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Jesus glorified God by accomplishing the work that God gave Him - Jesus obeyed God.

John 17:4 - I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

Likewise, we must obey God, and obey God by obeying Jesus, and being sanctified in the Truth. By having faith in Jesus and trusting in the Truth, and obeying, we are cleaned, transformed and made to glorify God:

John 17:8-26 - For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

II Thessalonians 1:10 - when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

We are to be conformed into Christ's image:

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (ESV)

We're supposed to do good works of faith by Jesus' power so that Jesus' name is glorified - and those works done in Jesus' power are entirely given by grace to us:

71.1 Glorification is grace

Being persecuted for doing good works of faith by His power is all grace:

II Thessalonians 1:11-12 - To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every **work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, *according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (ESV)

71.2 Glorification is Christ-likeness

We are trying to shine the Truth of Jesus Christ and Jesus' gospel.

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

Glorification is the visible works of following Jesus including forgiving others, relieving others' burdens, etc. suffering for the sake of righteousness and obedience to God.

Imitating Jesus, forgiving others, walking righteously, and doing good works (bearing one-another's burdens) glorifies Jesus and glorifies God. The motivation is to glorify Jesus, and to honour Jesus.

I Corinthians 6:20 - for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Romans 12:1 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Steve Apirana - Living Sacrifice

This should never replace Jesus, but glorifies Jesus because it's being a disciple of Jesus.

II Thessalonians 1:11-12 - To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every **work of faith** by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the *grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (ESV)

Hebrews 2:10 - For it was fitting for Him, for whom (G3739 hos) are all (G3956 pas) things (G3956 pas), and through whom (G3739 hos) are all (G3956 pas) things (G3956 pas), in **bringing many sons to glory** (G1391 doxa), to perfect (G5048 teleoo) the author of their salvation (G4991 soteria) through sufferings.

If someone's lord is money and not Jesus and then they try to do good works such as setting up businesses, I feel like this glorifies money, not Jesus.

Here, Zacchaeus, renounces money and makes Jesus his Lord. This must happen first.

Luke 19:8 - And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. (ESV)

Abram did this too. It's a necessary act of faith.

Genesis 14:20-24 - and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand! And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. And the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself. But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich. I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.

Genesis 15:1 - After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.

71.3 True obedience leads to glory/holiness/Christ-likeness

For example, to truly obey God and love / do no harm to one's neighbour involves relieving other's burdens as they ask more from you.

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

youtube.com: C.S. Lewis - God is guiding our lives to the best path @time: 18 min 37 sec As you feel compelled to act according to what pleases God, even in the face of difficulties, it is a clear sign that He is moulding not only your heart but your entire being. God is reshaping you to reflect the person he created you to be, with a heart like that of Jesus.

Jesus endured the weight of His cross to lighten our burden:

Hebrews 12:3 - Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. (ESV)

We are called to do the same, lightening the burdens of others. We are forgiven and given grace, then we can choose to forgive others and lighten their burdens - grace propagates.

Hebrews 12:4-6 - In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.

Hebrews 12:10 - For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

71.4 Forgive others' offenses towards you is glory

Proverbs 19:11 - Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

We are required to:

- forgive others for your sake

- forgive others for their sake
- forgive others as a response of love to Jesus for your sins being forgiven
- to be able to forgive others is a gift to you and part of glorification
- be merciful to others as we have received mercy

Colossians 3:12-13 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** (ESV)

This is simultaneously required and is part of glorification/holiness.

I think there's something very important about forgiving others especially for things which happen after being born-again of the Spirit and receiving **the Holy Spirit.**

Colossians 3:13 - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

John 20:21-23 - Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive **the Holy Spirit.** If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.

Especially immediately after receiving **the Holy Spirit**, Jesus forgives those who you forgive - this is partaking in the process of forgiveness.

Jesus is the one who forgives sin, but we actually participate in propagating that forgiveness.

Forgiving others entirely is also required

Matthew 6:12 - and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Sometimes you don't know if you're in the right or wrong, so forgiving others' offences towards you is freeing yourself:

Matthew 18:21-35 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, Pay what you owe. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you. He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, **You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.** (ESV)

Before God we're all guilty:

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)

Loving one another includes forgiving one another. Forgiving others means not holding a grudge:

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

youtube.com: Sin as Slavery - Timothy Keller Sermon @time: 22 min 17 sec What if you just decided, "I know I'm supposed to forgive but I'm not I'm going to hold a grudge." You know what that will do to your mind? It will rot your mind mind. Because first of all in order to hold a grudge you've got to feel morally superior to that person. You cannot see yourself as yourself guilty of anything that person has done. And so, when the evidence comes that you are a sinner, when the evidence comes that you are weak, when the evidence comes that you're flawed, you'll screen it out. You won't be able to. Because you can't hold on, you can't crave vengeance and still be rational. You'll have to screen out any evidence that says, "Hey, you're as bad as that person" and not only that, you'll have to screen out any evidence that person isn't as bad as you thought they were.

youtube.com: Sin as Slavery - Timothy Keller Sermon @time: 23 min 7 sec Sin will not only destroy your emotions through an eternal tolerance effect but it will destroy your mind. You will not be able to think and in the end your will is gone.

Forgiving each other moves mountains (I know Gospel of Thomas is not canon and I don't affirm the gospel of Thomas - I think it's misleading, but this saying rings true for me, and I believe it means that when two people make peace, they can move mountains. Whether Jesus truly said it or not, who knows):

Thomas 48 - Jesus said: If two make peace with one another in this one house, they will say to the mountain: Be removed, and it will be removed.

Matthew 18:15-20 - If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. (ESV)

It's Christlike to forgive others' offences against us:

Proverbs 19:11 - Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. (ESV)

We'll be chastised if we do not forgive our brother from our heart:

Matthew 18:35 - So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. (ESV)

Get out of debt to others:

Romans 13:7 - Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. (ESV)

Come to the place where we owe others nothing but to love them:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

Our unforgiveness is an impediment to receiving forgiveness:

Mark 11:25 - And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (ESV)

Matthew 6:14-15 - For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (ESV)

We should have the right response to the grace of God, and forgive our neighbour:

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

We are instructed to forward grace to others:

Matthew 10:8 - Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. **You received without paying; give without pay.** (ESV)

71.5 Be extremely generous - give without limits to relieve the burdens of others

Matthew 10:8 - Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. **You received without paying; give without pay.** (ESV)

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (ESV)

Luke 6:35-36 - But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

Luke 6:38 - give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. **For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.** (ESV)

Mark 12:41-44 - And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she **out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.** (ESV)

Psalms 37:21 - The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but **the righteous is generous and gives;** (ESV)

Psalms 37:25-26 - I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. **He is ever lending generously**, and his children become a blessing. (ESV)

Paul commands giving even beyond their means. This is in accordance with the widow's offering:

II Corinthians 8:3-5 - For they gave *according to their means*, as I can testify, and *beyond their means, of their own free will*, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (ESV)

Give as you have made up in your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, but resist other people deterring you from giving when your heart convicts you it's the right thing to do as far as obeying Jesus goes:

II Corinthians 9:6-9 - The point is this: **whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly**, and **whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully**. Each one must **give as he has made up his mind**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. (ESV)

Philemon 1:13-14 - I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that **your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will**. (ESV)

71.6 Do the good works which have been gifted to you

Our works have been gifted to us by God's grace - works of deed and word:

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

God chose us and called us out of darkness into His marvelous light to proclaim His excellencies:

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

71.7 Walk in righteousness

Daniel 12:3 - And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (ESV)

71.8 The deeds of glory - Christlikeness

Hebrews 3:14 - For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (ESV)

All the times a person has acted in Christlike obedience:

- forgiving others in knowledge they have been forgiven themselves
- giving mercy to others in knowledge they have themselves received mercy
- encouraging one-another
- serve others
- suffering as a Christian
- etc.

God glorifies Jesus (His Son) so Jesus may glorify Him (God). Jesus glorifies us (His disciples) so we may glorify Him (Jesus) and glorify God by glorifying Jesus.

This is obedience.

John 17:1 - When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,

John 17:4 - I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

God glorifies Jesus. Jesus obeyed God and accomplished the work God gave Him. Jesus showed God's truthfulness through His obedience. Jesus showed God to be true and glorified God:

Romans 15:8-9 - For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and **in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy**. As it is written, Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.

Jesus glorifies us: We must obey Jesus and accomplish the work God gives us.

John 8:54 - Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God.

Jesus is glorified in us - our glory is His glory because we obey Him and show Jesus's truthfulness as Jesus has shown God's truthfulness:

John 17:22-23 - The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Jesus is glorified in us.

John 17:10 - All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. (ESV)

Jesus accomplished His work. we must accomplish our work.

John 17:4 - I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

Christlikeness:

I Peter 2:12 - Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Romans 12:1 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Revelation of John 19:8 - it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Suffering for Christian obedience, as Christ suffered for His obedience:

John 21:18-19 - Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go. (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, Follow me.

I Peter 4:16 - Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: John Piper Recites from 1 Peter

Please your neighbour for their good:

Romans 15:2-3 - Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you. Live in harmony with one-another, encouraging and serving one another [as Christ did]:

Romans 15:5-7 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Be merciful and serving to others, show God's truthfulness. glorify God by your conduct. Others then praise God:

Romans 15:8-9 - For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and **in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy**. As it is written, Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.

Supply the needs of the saints:

II Corinthians 9:12 - For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

Be thankful to God:

II Corinthians 9:13 - By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,

Glorification can only come through being found in Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 42:8 - I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. (ESV)

And in Jesus Christ there is no sin:

I John 3:5-6 - You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or *known* him.

71.9 Seeing Jesus, appearing in glory

1 John 3:2 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (ESV)

1 Corinthians 1:4-8 - I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Colossians 3:4 - When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (ESV)

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Philippians 1:10 - so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, (ESV)

Philippians 2:16 - holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (ESV)

John 6:39 - And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. (ESV)

71.10 The putting off of the body

II Peter 1:13-21 - I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased, we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by **the Holy Spirit**.

71.11 I think to relax commandments is throw away glorification

Matthew 5:19 - Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

However, I'm not placing myself under the Mosaic law. My job is to do God's will, and I believe I have to maintain faithfulness to God with regards to His will for my life, being led by **the Holy Spirit**, not making Mosaic law compliance my objective, but making God's will my objective. So, for example, that means making disciples of Jesus. Also, that means deepening my relationship with Jesus.

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

72 I was dead and helpless before being made alive in Christ

- youtube.com: Is the Calvinist-Arminian Debate Really Important? @time: 4 min 38 sec

72.1 Before being born-again of the spirit I was thinking worldly/materially

I Corinthians 2:14 - The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (ESV)

72.1.1 I was spiritually blind

II Corinthians 4:4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (ESV)

John 14:9 - Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father? (ESV)

72.2 I was quite unable to go against the trajectory of the world

Romans 8:7 - For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (ESV)

72.3 In a very real sense I was helpless

I was helplessly:

- stuck in sinful habits,
- struggling with mental energy to try to stay on top of things / get ahead (of others),
- wondering why everything was going against me, and
- wondering where God is
- wondering why other so-called Christians were not being Christlike

I could not see my spiritual opposition:

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

I felt like giving up, and I cried out to Jesus one night to save me:

Romans 10:13 - For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (ESV)

72.4 In defense of any type of love for God before being born-again on 2 April 2022

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (ESV)

I had already begun to seek God around a year before I was born-again of the Spirit / regenerated on 2 April 2022.

Jeremiah 29:13-14 - You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (ESV)

I had begun trying to repent from sin by trying to follow the 10 commandments from the heart.

72.4.1 With regards to God

Before I was born-again, I had begun speaking out against evil and I had begun repenting from my evil deeds, but I was still very much spiritually depraved. God was still working in my life.

John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. (ESV)

The doctrine of total depravity asserts that people are, as a result of the fall, not inclined or even able to love God wholly with heart, mind, and strength, but rather are inclined by nature to serve their own will and desires and reject his rule.

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

72.5 Christ's love

Love is:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, **hopes all things, endures all things.** **Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

Required to satisfy the "Christ's love" criteria I believe are:

- Our first agape love has to be Jesus
- We love because God loved us first. We ought to love others because we have been loved by God
- We forgive out of a loving response to God and to others, knowing we have already been forgiven of our debt
- It must satisfy Christ's law
- Acceptance comes at the beginning; Jesus gives us the benefit of the doubt
- Be a servant; consider others more significant than yourself
- Seek to do not harm to your neighbour and not take vengeance
- Bear one another's burdens without partiality
- We should endeavour to love not just on occasion, but at all times, continually, as Jesus did, and give our all

Our first agape love has to be Jesus:

Revelation of John 2:1-5 - "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first (G4413 protos) love (G26 **agape**). Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. (NASB)

Song youtube.com: Petra - First Love

Our love is in response to Christ having loved us first:

I John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

To love your neighbour as yourself means forgiving them too, and remember that Jesus forgave us. It also means to not take vengeance (Christ's law includes not rendering evil for evil):

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

Which commandments must we keep? Jesus' commandments - Jesus' sayings and commandments which Father God commanded Him to speak. Also, it's worth learning from the Apostles who were with Jesus. Some commandments of Jesus are divulged and better understood from their writings.

Jesus kept Father God's commandments including the commandment of what to say and speak to us. Jesus' words and sayings and commandments which God gave Him to speak to us are what we should keep. His commandments are eternal life for us:

John 12:44-50 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me. (ESV)

From infants in Christ to maturity, people who keep Jesus' commandments are found in Christ who is in God:

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

Philippians 3:8-12 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:1-5 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (ESV)

If you love Jesus, keep His commandments. The one who keeps Jesus' commandments is the one who loves Jesus:

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Because God loved us *first*:

- The Apostle Paul endeavours to know Jesus ('makes it his own'. See **Php 3:9-13**) *because Jesus made Paul His own*
 - To be found in Jesus **is** what Paul describes as the righteousness from God that depends on faith

* **Philippians 3:8-12** - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (ESV)

* **I Thessalonians 5:8** - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

* **I John 3:23-24** - And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us**. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

* **Ephesians 6:14** - Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, (ESV)

* **James 1:19-23** - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce **the righteousness that God requires**. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (ESV)

– We know Jesus by believing in Him and obeying His commandments, and when we love and forgive we know *God loved us and forgave us first*

* **I John 2:3-6** - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

• We must love because *He loved us first* for God to abide in us

– **Romans 5:7-8** - For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)

– **I John 4:9-12** - In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

• We must forgive as we have been forgiven

– **Colossians 3:12-14** - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (ESV)

• We must be conformed to holiness

I Peter 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. (ESV)

So by faith we believe we are children of God, and believing on the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God gives us the right and the commandment to be sanctified in the Truth. An analogy I like is that that by believing on Jesus' name as Son of God and Christ, we are allowed to be placed into God's ambulance and brought to God. In other words, we continue in faith and obedience, as slaves of God to be cleaned up as we come to the knowledge of the Truth. This imputed righteousness enables us to be sanctified by faith in Jesus with his blood:

John 1:11-13 - He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (ESV)

God continues to heal, sanctify, deliver us and help us to grow in knowledge of Him, as we obey Him:

Philippians 3:9-13 - and **be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (ESV)

We should be loving our neighbour continually:

John 13:1 - Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.** (ESV)

72.5.1 Obedience to God and passing forward the love of Christ

It was Father God's will that Jesus went to the cross:

Luke 22:42 - saying, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done. (ESV)

Jesus was willing to do God's will - Jesus was obedient:

John 10:18 - No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. (ESV)

In response to forgiveness, we must love:

Luke 7:47 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. (ESV)

He loved us first, and that is why and how we love (knowing we've already received mercy). Christ's love is not simply charity but a) it's passing-forward Christ's love, and b) it's to relieve other's burdens (mercy, not sacrifice):

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Acts 2:45 - And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (ESV)

Jesus laid down His life. Maybe this says something about how we should also lay down our lives for each other:

John 10:17 - For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. (ESV)

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. (ESV)

I think this shows that Father God works as He loves the Son of God who is obedient to Father God's commandments, and Jesus Christ, the Son of God gives us commandments in like manner:

John 5:20-24 - For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)

John 15:9-10 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (ESV)

John 10:17-18 - For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. (ESV)

72.6 2020 (About 1 and a bit years before I was born-again of the Spirit)

I was attempting to prove that "faithful, truthful, unconditional" love should be the basis of a romantic relationship and I did not have any success in finding one.

The good part of it was wanting her to be happy. The bad part was that I wanted to be the solution, when the solution is Jesus.

I Thessalonians 5:20-21 - Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. (ESV)

I believe that Jesus gives us unconditional love but that He also gives us conditional love. There is unconditional love, which extends even to the evil and the ungrateful. This is just one of those apparent paradoxes. However, there are some profoundly conditional aspects of God's love to us which include many promises He makes to those who love Him back:

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

Polycarp 2:2 Now He that raised Him from the dead will raise us also; if we do His will and walk in His commandments and love the things which He loved, abstaining from all unrighteousness, covetousness, love of money, evil speaking, false witness; not rendering evil for evil or railing for railing or blow for blow or cursing for cursing;

But in all fairness, at this time **I still didn't have a relationship with God** where I considered Christ's law and bearing my neighbour's burdens, doing no harm and counting others more significant than myself as a defining part of agape love. And for the sake of trying to solve my own problems, I was not **at all times** counting them as more significant than myself, but I think it's very unfair to say that I did not ever.

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

Philippians 2:3-5 - Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you **look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others**. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

I was still just getting to know Jesus and I had a lot to learn. I believe that the grace in my life **ran out**.

I gave up on seeking a romantic relationship with that person because there was definitely no mutual feeling from them.

That was up until about December 2020.

At the time I was just beginning to learn to keep Jesus' commandments but I was also trying to fulfill a desire which only Jesus can fill, and I had not died.

Colossians 3:3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (ESV)

We must love (not just any way you believe it's defined, not even merely with charity) but in the same way that Jesus loved us - self-sacrificially, impartially, following Christ's law (bearing one another's burdens) and in a response to having been loved already:

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another: just as I have loved you**, you also are to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:10-11 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (ESV)

I John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us. (ESV)

Then I was amazed surprised to meet someone else who I simply felt at total peace with being around, someone who I thought also didn't hate me, after struggling for years having romantic feelings for people who didn't have any affection for me at all.

That was around January 2021.

And almost as soon as I met this person I had to let her go for the time being and I simply worked on Pen.el when it was AI software (before it was Bible Study software) for the course of 2021. With the AI project I was building a 'virtual house', but Jesus wants us to allow Him to build our life:

Psalms 127:1 - Unless the LORD (3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (ESV)

Matthew 7:24 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

I just say this in order to describe the events leading up to being born-again, for the sake of others, and so they may know how God drew me to Jesus to save me, as this is my testimony of being born-again.

Even though from time to time I sin, I do not consider myself to be a 'ravenous wolf' because I'm in a world that is incredibly toxic and uncondusive to holiness. Nor am I a liar by nature - except in a strict sense, I am by fallen nature, but I'm being sanctified as far as I understand, so that means I'm being renewed in the likeness of my Creator who is not a liar. I hate lying, and when I realise I've said something false I am remorseful. And I rejoice in the truth. Also my first allegiance is always to Jesus. I am conformed to Jesus, not trying to conform Jesus to me. Jesus also did battle against demons, and I identify as being with Him, on His side, of the truth.

youtube.com: C.S. Lewis - God is guiding our lives to the best path @time: 20 min 45 sec Jesus faced adversities from birth to the cross.

I love Jesus as a response to having been loved by God, and I love God's law, and God has cleaned my heart and my attitude, and remain faithful to Jesus. With my mind I serve the law of God, and I have yielded and am yielding my life to Jesus' control and Lordship, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin:

Romans 7:25 - Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

God made me born-again of the Spirit. I was spiritually regenerated. God shone light into my heart, and I embraced Jesus, made following Jesus my number one priority, and abandoned the false-substitute AI stuff, and have made a big effort to turn away from sin, and be as obedient as I can:

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

I died and my life is now hidden with Christ in God:

Colossians 3:3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (ESV)

And I must put to death what is earthly in me:

Colossians 3:3-15 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (ESV)

And I must be led by the Spirit of God:

Romans 8:10-14 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (ESV)

Romans 7:4 - Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. (ESV)

When I reflect on my own efforts to obey Jesus, I keep seeing stuff ups and mistakes. While I want God to continue sanctifying me to better obedience of faith, If I were to have confidence solely from whether or not I was able to keep Christ's law perfectly today, or say the right things, then I would be in a very sorry state. But I thank God that I get to be called a child of God, as I hope in Jesus Christ, as I endeavour to purify my soul through obedience to the truth for a sincere love of my family in Christ, and I believe that Christ works in my as I obey Him in faith.

My own obedience/righteousness will never be enough on its own (I also need to have accepted forgiveness from God by Jesus' blood), but I hate sin (especially after I have committed it) and I have made an effort to be conformed to holiness, and I honestly feel like without grace/assistance the call to "be holy as He is holy" feels impossible. But as far as being right with God goes, I'm resting on the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus so on the day of judgement I hope to receive a "not guilty" verdict, and the ongoing fear of God I believe is a continuing trust and obedience to Jesus Christ after accepting Him as Lord and Saviour - accepting the truth of His Gospel:

- youtube.com: If you are struggling with what to do with sin after you receive Jesus, take a listen... ?

Matthew 13:37-43 - He answered, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (ESV)

True freedom is found in Jesus, not in the AI stuff:

Colossians 2:18-21 - Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (ESV)

We must keep and accept the precepts of God over the precepts of men:

Mark 7:6-9 - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.** And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (ESV)

This passage is condemning submitting to **worldly / human** precepts and imploring us to submit to God's precepts. It's not condemning God's precepts but imploring us to put to death what is against God's precepts:

Colossians 2:20-23,3:1-6 - If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to **human precepts** and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you have been **raised with Christ, seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** (ESV)

And now I'm in this situation where I feel like:

- with the first person (a year + before being born-again), the failure was my own fault and I wasn't really in a relationship with God but I wanted a Christian wife. I did not propose to her
 - I learned from this that a spouse is not supposed to be one's saviour
- after meeting the second person (a year before being born-again) I thought everything about it was perfect
 - so much peace and joy with not needing anything from her and I could focus and work, etc. and wait forever to see her.

- But when I met the new girl everything felt right, and at the time I met her I felt like I definitely wanted to marry her.
- after being born-again, Jesus became the most important person to me and was still in love with the girl.
 - When I had the vision of her on the beach, I thought she was a gift from God. I proposed to her after seeing her smiling at me on the street.
 - I was brought into court. I needed to reinforce the following again truth again: that a spouse is not supposed to be one's saviour, and, also, **we're not supposed to be our spouses' saviour either.** A spouse cannot be an idol. Jesus must always be first because Jesus is our life.

However, it's the husband's role to demonstrate Christ's love, and not deny their wife to know Jesus:

Ephesians 5:21-23 - submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (ESV)

In my opinion, everything up to when I proposed to her was good - it was like heaven in terms of my happiness. It felt right and I felt close to Jesus too. However, I still had a lot to learn about following Jesus and dying to self.

We are forgiven to do the will of God. We are saved to obey God better. God puts us into Christ. We obey to wash others, and for ourselves to be sanctified, like a branch becoming healthier in the tree:

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, **your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.** Truly, truly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master**, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

We are cleaned by the blood of Christ to serve the living God:

Matthew 4:10 - Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

We serve God by serving Christ:

Romans 16:17-20 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

We are required to:

- forgive others for your sake
- forgive others for their sake
- forgive others as a response of love to Jesus for your sins being forgiven
- to be able to forgive others is a gift to you and part of glorification

- be merciful to others as we have received mercy

Colossians 3:12-13 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** (ESV)

The failure to keep the police bail conditions was still potentially rooted in my own fault theologically speaking.

I still needed ongoing repentance and sanctification (correction theologically and behaviorally), and I think that theological error most likely led to endorsing things which I later wanted to repent from. I felt like it was urgent to repent from heresy and from publicly affirming that I would not judge gay 'marriage', and my need to plead guilty was in the light of the knowledge of my error.

I understand now from experience that spreading heresy is a very dangerous thing to do:

II Peter 2:1 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even **denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.** (ESV)

II Peter 2:15-16 - Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. (ESV)

I am not the judge of people. There is only one judge. But I am repentant from sin and affirm God's precepts, not sin.

Also, my attitude of wanting to remain faithful to the girl began to degrade my faithfulness to Jesus as I began to make compromises in my writing to continue affirming faithfulness to the girl.

But ultimately, under test I felt the need to affirm Jesus as being the Truth and forsake all else, as from my perspective it looked like I was being tested on relationship idolatry.

Part of why I could not resist but continue blogging, was because of the sheer injustice I felt regarding my freedom to write, and I felt like there was this relationship-destroying spirit sabotaging my relationships again, and whatever thing was completely against faith itself - I had already been writing on my blog very few times to demonstrate a track record of faithfulness, and another part was that after I proposed I wanted to demonstrate faithful waiting in way that was legal (though it was grey, I guess) as the proposal had not been rejected, and as far as I knew at the time, copying Reformed Church Quiz Night results on my blog was not illegal, despite it having elements of her name dispersed in the result answers, or a picture of a flowerbed on my own Facebook page.

gracequotes.org: Sermon, Our Hope, Eternal Life, June 29, 1986, www.DesiringGod.org Christian hope,

biblical hope is "a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future." And from that definition we can see three things that must be true about something if it indeed is to be the object of biblical hope. 1. What we hope for must be something good. 2. What we hope for must be in the future. 3. What we hope for must be certain, not doubtful, so that our expectation of its coming to pass may be confident, not wavering.

I realise that by doing this may have looked like "poking the bear" and I was aware of that possibility, but my motivation wasn't to. I'm a human being who proposed to someone, and I feel like I can in all honesty plead that I was just being human who was making their first proposal and I felt at the time like the system opposing me was an evil and graceless machine that was punishing me for doing what felt right, but also I wasn't exercising perfect love because otherwise I would not have been even a tiny bit resentful:

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It **does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

Jesus showed perfect love. We then strive to have love perfected with us:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Everything seemed to line up:

The truth is that I was born-again and then I met someone I already liked, and decided I wanted to marry when I talked to her and simply had excessive joy with and also compassion for and thought God made her for me because **everything** seemed to line up and I was under the impression she liked me too. That has never ever happened before that everything has lined up. However, one must also consider relationship with God, and I knew/know practically nothing about their relationship with God. Perfection would include also both parties having joy in God and love for God, for Jesus, that remains even when the other person is taken away - in fact it's the most important thing in a Christian marriage probably. I would love to have more than just baseline joy in God when it's extremely tough. The question is do I have it? I would describe my relationship with God and joy over the person I wanted to marry as a cake which was mostly composed of icing (20% base, 80% icing), when I feel like ideally the composition should be more like a cake that was mostly cake and a little bit of icing (80% base, 20% icing) - where the joy over the wife is the icing and the joy over God is the base. In all honesty, I think I would prefer if it could be mostly cake base and icing on the top. God doesn't want to be merely the icing on the cake but the foundation of our life.

This sermon helps:

youtube.com: Sustaining Joy in Christ #8 - "Spend time with God saturated people who will help you see God and fight the fight of faith." #9 "Read biographies of great Christian Saints." Now I mention this because it's biblical Hebrews 11 is all about heroes of the faith.

I think the judiciary system should be careful not to infringe on basic human rights going forward with the AI-generated fiction which is now in the world, otherwise as I have said, robots may be taking human wives before poor people can, and that to God is an abomination I assure you - and I wouldn't want to tempt God.

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

Tempting God with that seems a worse idea than "poking the bear".

II Samuel 11:3-5 - And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, I am pregnant. (ESV)

II Samuel 12:1-18 - And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but **the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.** Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to

prepare for the guest who had come to him, but **he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.** Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. Nathan said to David, **You are the man!** Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun. David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said to David, The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die. Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm. (ESV)

Because of the seriousness of the circumstances, and the fear of God, I'm prevented from doing much without specific and unambiguous instruction from God, like an angel:

Matthew 1:20 - But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

It's right for me to focus on God right now, and remain obedient to Jesus:

youtube.com: 'I Have Loved You' The revelation of the the Lord's love is unfolded in a way that makes us tremble.

James 1:12-18 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the **crown of life**, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Fullest, Longest Happiness: For Those Who Pass the Test That lifestyle, that *unselfish, other oriented, love your neighbor as yourself, sacrificial* way of life, I'm telling you, is going to be required of you in the midst of lifelong miseries, which are God's tests.

That's where the obedience of this book (James) is going to be required of you.

There's no vacation time to do nice obedience and then you can suffer at another time...

It is design in those tests is your deep and lasting happiness and these tests provide circumstances through which you are found proven and fit for the crown of life.

All God's tests are designed to make you deeply and lastingly happy.

Everything else in the text is to help you believe that live that because life is going to be hard Joy is going to be serious.

From my angle, I had considered myself as the poor man (**II Samuel 12:1-18**) in the situation of court **and** not like David who stole someone's wife, but I had a lot of repentance to do. I believe I could have asked God to get justice with this, but then it's better to show mercy even for my own sake, especially in the knowledge that I have been shown mercy by God. So I **know** I have been shown mercy, and I know I should pass forward mercy. Remember the parable of the unforgiving servant (**Matthew 18:21-35**):

James 2:13 - For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (ESV)

Despite having already been involved (while on earth) with the courts of heaven, I will also ultimately stand before God where He will see if I passed forward mercy after having received mercy:

II Corinthians 5:10-11 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. (ESV)

But I did give a letter of forgiveness in court, so there's no (even spiritual) legal obligation to have this amended. Also, perhaps to them I have been like David. Despite being made new I still have a "history" from others' point of view, and having received grace it makes sense to pass forward grace.

I'm at peace with whatever happens next.

Jesus emptied himself. So despite being born-again, it's right to do the same:

II Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (ESV)

We are supposed to have the same mind:

Philippians 2:5-8 - **Have this mind among yourselves**, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant**, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

But I am allowed to ask God for more grace, but that's between me and God:

James 4:6-7 - But **he gives more grace**. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (ESV)

And I'm allowed to speak the truth from my angle:

Isaiah 41:21 - Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. (ESV)

Even with regards to the New Covenant, it's fine to put forth our case, even if we are found to be sinners. Jesus is not a servant of sin:

Isaiah 43:20-26 - The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise. Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. **I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Put me in remembrance; let us argue together; set forth your case,** that you may be proved right. (ESV)

Galatians 2:17-21 - But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. (ESV)

I believe strongly that outlawing marriage proposal is very close to outlawing God, and outlawing my writing was punishing faith which is the way in which we are supposed to live.

Hebrews 10:38 - but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:1-2 - Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman. But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, **each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.** (ESV)

I also believe that the situation was interfered with by the influences of unclean spirits. For all my faults I have been following Jesus, not perfectly but penitently.

I had to be obedient after going to court:

John 3:16-21 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. **But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.** (ESV)

I've had to be corrected even after being born-again of the Spirit. Jesus has to be number one.

I'm no longer interested in AI. I know God is real and is taking care of me.

I realise what has happened regarding me and relationships is messy and the need to hold no grudge going forward. I offer it to anyone.

Life doesn't feel like the kingdom of God to me currently because that would involve having this trifecta of **righteousness, peace and joy** in the Holy Spirit, and I have felt like I have had my blessings stolen from me by the enemy, but God is the only one who can solve this for me, but I do have peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit, and baseline joy which is derived from a good conscience with God.

I was quite depressed today <2024-10-23 Wed>. God help me. I wasn't even jealous. What happened flattened me and shattered me spiritually. God help me, please.

youtube.com: WHO IS GOD? {Nahum 1:2-7} By John MacArthur @time: 20 min 48 sec And so God is jealous for his glory. God is also jealous for his love. Jealousy really only belongs to those who love. Husband and a wife - jealousy is possible A girlfriend and a boyfriend - jealousy is possible. Jealousy fits into a love relationship, and so it does with God. God is jealous because he loves.

youtube.com: WHO IS GOD? {Nahum 1:2-7} By John MacArthur @time: 21 min 34 sec Hosea, you remember Hosea? Dear old Hosea, the prophet. God gave him really a wonderful illustration to live in his own life. And God told him to marry a woman, Gomer, who turned out to be a prostitute. He told him to marry this woman Gomer who turned out to be a prostitute, and God then said this is a graphic illustration of what Israel has done to me. Israel has been an unfaithful wife and God was jealous over Israel because Israel was his love. And God's heart was grieved. God's heart was indeed broken. God gets jealous when those he loves are stolen from him by somebody else.

And so God's jealousy is not only the jealousy of honor, but it's the jealousy of love.

All through the old testament God says I'm jealous for my people, I'm jealous for my land, I'm jealous for those things that are mine. When God sets his affection on something and something robs him of that, he's jealous.

At the end of the day, it's good conscience with God I am after and sanctification:

Romans 14:17-18 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (ESV)

A goal is to be content in any situation:

Philippians 4:11 - Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. (ESV)

72.7 Being born-again / being regenerated of Spirit

God made me born-again/regenerated me on 2 April 2022 and following Jesus became the most important thing. I was washed and sanctified:

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

I'm still being sanctified:

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (ESV)

I myself am also trying to cooperate with Jesus and the Holy Spirit to be sanctified:

John 17:19 - And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (ESV)

An import part of being sanctified and made perfect/complete is having love perfected with us - getting better at holding no grudges and loving our neighbour as ourselves and loving God obeying God, and being faithful to God even with a good conscience with regards to God's precepts:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

Ever since 2 April 2022 I have been a new creation. I am controlled by the love of Christ and have stopped thinking like the world thinks, and I've been living for Christ, and I've been learning to do that better:

II Corinthians 5:14-17 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (ESV)

72.7.1 Court

I had an out-of-body meeting with the Holy Spirit (maybe), and a dream on 3 May 2022 foreshadowing 1 year later on 3 May 2023 when I ended up pleading guilty in court.

I had confessed Jesus to the spirit, as documented. But I asked, "Are you the Holy Spirit?" They said, "Yes, I'll take a look at you." But that doesn't mean that it was the Holy Spirit.

I got angry and yelled at the judge in court saying he was a liar because the judge had made a remark against what I assumed was my water baptism (saying, "he must have been baptised at midnight"), but my water baptism was an appeal to God for a good conscience and I was trying to "do good" like in **John 7:19-25**:

youtube.com: The Hidden Snare of Bitterness @time: 9 min 21 sec "anger at something because God's purposes are being resisted or God's character is being maligned not our purposes merely or our character good anger is targeting sin against God not just assaults against us"

I regretted getting angry in court very much and I'm very sorry about that, but I was under extreme pressure, not understanding why I was forced to be in court and I was very upset that even after having arrived at peace pleading guilty that it was the most loving thing to do, I was provoked to anger by both judges in court who had the freedom to speak when I did not. But I am very sorry for my outburst of anger and i hold no grudge to either judge or to anyone. I really want the spiritual attack against me to end.

But maybe the judge was referring to me meeting the Holy Spirit in my sleep at 12.30am which may of course have been part of my Holy Spirit baptism - this is mysterious so we can only speculate.

youtube.com: What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?: Born Again with R.C. Sproul {@ligonier}

SPROUL: In our first session in our study of what it means to be born again, I tried to focus our attention on Jesus' teaching to Nicodemus of the absolute necessity of spiritual rebirth for entering into the Kingdom of God. What I would like to do in this segment is to discuss another aspect of rebirth and that is its mysterious character. So that the point I was trying to make the first time was that regeneration is necessary. Now I would like to turn our attention to the second point, which is that regeneration is mysterious.

Also, I'm aware that I've been born-again, saved from walking in darkness and in sin and the need to pass-forward forgiveness and the need to obey Jesus, and I'm aware that I was not strictly perfectly innocent. I snapped in court and I'm sorry about it.

Well, whatever is the reasons for what happened, all humans except for Jesus have broken God's law - we've all been liars, but God is true. And that is exactly the reason why I pleaded guilty, and the judge is also guilty:

Romans 3:4 - By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged. (ESV)

Sproul also had a moment like this:

youtube.com: The Meaning of Holiness: The Holiness of God with R.C. Sproul I was lecturing on the Lord's Supper, and his question was not so much a question as an expression of unbridled cynicism.

He put his hand up, and I acknowledged him.

He said, "What's the big deal about bread and wine?

Why do we have to do that?

Why can't we just have peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and coca-cola?" That's when I lost it.

I just felt this rage just flowing up out of my soul.

He grated my sensitivity when he said that, and instead of giving a polite, genteel, professorial response to him, I said, "You want to know why we don't have peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and coca-cola at Holy Communion?

Because Jesus never consecrated peanut butter and jelly or coca-cola." I just wanted to kill him.

Why?

Because he had just profaned with his question something that was precious and holy in my experience.

But what is it that makes the bread and the wine so special?

What is it that makes any moment in history so special?

What is it that makes a piece of real estate holy ground?

Why is it that Noah marked the spot where he landed with a – built an altar?

And Abraham built an altar to God.

Why is it that we are drawn to take something that is common and make it extraordinary because of its significance?

It's not because of the intrinsic value of these objects, but what makes something sacred, what makes something holy is the touch of God upon it.

When the one who himself is other and different touches that which is ordinary, it becomes extraordinary.

If someone is angry with his brother, then God may take this matter to judgement:

Matthew 5:22 - But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, You fool! will be liable to the hell of fire. (ESV)

5520. cholaō Definition: to be melancholy, mad, angry Usage: I am angry with. 5520 xoláō (akin to 5521 /xolē, "gall, bile") – properly, full of bile; (figuratively) filled with bitter anger and hence harsh (even violent).

If you're unrighteously angry then watch out:

John 7:19-25 - Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me? The crowd answered, You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you? Jesus answered them, I did one deed, and you all marvel at it. Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment. Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? (ESV)

3709. orgē "Orgē comes from the verb oragō meaning, 'to teem, to swell'; and thus implies that it is not a sudden outburst, but rather (referring to God's) fixed, controlled, passionate feeling against sin . . . a settled indignation (so Hendriksen)" (D. E. Hiebert, at 1 Thes 1:10).

Jesus' anger here was a godly grief:

Mark 3:4-5 - And he said to them, Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill? But they were silent. And **he looked around at them with anger (3709. orgē)**, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, Stretch out your hand. He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

We must forgive our family in Christ from the heart:

Matthew 18:33-35 - And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you? And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. (ESV)

Even though I have been born-again, and I think I've been treated with almost zero grace, even treated unfairly, I do not say I am without sin, and to have pleaded 'not guilty' as I am seeking to be obedient to Jesus, even while repenting from certain things which were nothing to do with court, and to not use the year I was born of the Spirit to make testimony of Jesus I think would be to dishonour Jesus, as Jesus is my Lord. So for that and also to try to do no harm to my neighbour, and also because I am not without sin, even after being washed and regenerated, I pleaded guilty in court. I was upset because I thought my latest water baptism was being disrespected and because I was under intense pressure due to what felt like severe spiritual attack against me in the prior months and an unreasonable lack of reality, grace, truth, and fear of God in the court yet I know I was not without sin:

I John 1:8-10 - **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

Romans 3:4 - By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged. (ESV)

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)

I was also asked just leading up to Easter what I would plea. I did not want to test God by pleading not guilty, especially on Easter.

Nor does it make sense to challenge someone in court who you want to marry because:

- a) that would be illogical because having love for them I do not want want to hurt them, and
- b) we are supposed to love our wives as Christ loves His church - self-sacrificially

I Corinthians 10:9-11 - **We must not put Christ to the test**, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (ESV)

Nor does it make sense to pit old concerns of my pre-born-again life such as "a conviction might make it harder to get a job" up against the needs of the person I want to marry.

There was simply no logic as far as godly wisdom goes to pleading 'not guilty'.

And we are called to love with Christ's love impartially, so had the court situation been with different people and with a different charge, Christ's law still applies:

James 2:1 - My brothers, show no partiality **as you hold the faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)

James 2:8-9 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (ESV)

I know I did not want to take people I love to trial for 2.5 years. That would be unloving. In following Jesus and remaining faithful to Jesus, one endeavours to keep His commandments. I've had my own family members turn against me, but I realise it's spiritual:

Luke 12:53-59 - They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law. He also said to the crowds, When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, A shower is coming. And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, There will be scorching heat, and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny. (ESV)

Luke 21:12-20 - But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. (ESV)

The judiciary system is right to execute impartial justice:

Deuteronomy 16:17-20 - Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you. You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (ESV)

II Chronicles 19:5-7 - He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges, Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the LORD. He is with you in giving judgment. Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes. (ESV)

In my situation I obviously needed to hold faith in Jesus:

Romans 3:19-22 - Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: (ESV)

And it means pleading guilty:

Romans 3:4 - By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged. (ESV)

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)

It seems to me like the court in several areas regarded good as evil and evil as good:

Proverbs 17:15 - He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD. (ESV)

Good:

- marriage proposal
- repentance, trying to be corrected by the Word of God
- speaking truth
- forgiving

Evil:

- slandering
- punishing good (punishing forgiveness, for example)
- lying, perjury
- making it harder to do the right thing

Leviticus 19:15 - You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. (ESV)

Only Jesus was without sin:

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (ESV)

I John 1:10 - If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

I John 1:8-10 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

However graceless I thought the situation was, pleading not guilty from my perspective would have been:

- not loving my neighbour,
- not trusting God,
- not putting God first before a girl I like,
- and putting Christ to the test by saying I have not done anything wrong

We must not put Christ to the test:

I Corinthians 10:9-11 - We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (ESV)

We must remain faithful to God:

James 2:21-23 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God. (ESV)

We must not short-sightedly exchange our invaluable inheritance for immediate relief as Esau did, and do our best to not allow bitterness to damage us going through the fiery trial:

Hebrews 12:15-17 - See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholly like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. (ESV)

Mark 8:35-36 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? (ESV)

Despite being born of water and the Spirit, we must commit to offering our entire life as a living sacrifice for God, to sow our own life for Jesus' sake:

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Matthew 16:25 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (ESV)

Jesus laid down His life. Maybe this says something about how we should also lay down our lives for each other:

John 10:17 - For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. (ESV)

Immediately before I had that out-of-body meeting with the Holy Spirit (but it might not have been Holy Spirit), I had come to the end of myself after doing everything I could in April, writing to my pastor Philip.

Because I was trying to be obedient to God after being born-again, and I then had a prayer request after I considered I had become burnt out from going "all out for God", having given God my first fruits of being born-again for a full month.

Genesis 4:4 - and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, (ESV)

I was in tears feeling as though I had poured out my heart in obedience to Jesus, and asked Him for one thing in prayer and it was me crying to God saying I have given Him everything but I don't have any love in my life and it was taken from me, then in my heart I accepted that I would see her again - you could call it faith, or deluding myself on purpose in order that I would be able to sleep, and I felt immediately better afterwards.

I actually don't think it was a delusion though. I actually think it's the truth.

Romans 12:9 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (ESV)

I Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (ESV)

We are commanded to love our wives the way Jesus did:

Read <https://omny.fm/shows/today/questions-to-ask-before-you-marry-1-12-june-2024>

Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

That's how it happened for the record.

I felt as though I was carving out a piece of my heart because it felt as if I had said to God in my heart that I could only be happy while I held faith that I'd see her again.

If I recall correctly, that was the night **before** May 3.

But I *certainly* felt that way **after** May 3. I kind-of doubled-down in my heart regarding that. Part of the reasoning behind that is the joy I had throughout 2021. At this stage (May 3, 2022) I did not know what the significance of the date was and had no idea what the dream of the policeman questioning me was about.

Romans 13:1-7 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. (ESV)

Now to make this slightly more complicated, there was someone I had met previously who I had feelings for in 2020 but at this stage, after being born-again, and then seeing her sitting by herself during easter, I had only compassion and no joy over seeing her by herself.

Still in May 2022 around Pentecost, God, gave me an immersive vision of healing people with compassion.

One year later on 3 May 2023 I pleaded guilty on Easter, and I pleaded guilty in full knowledge that God is watching and knows my innermost thoughts and the fruit of the Spirit while lawful do not justify me. I must carry my cross and make testimony of Jesus and follow Christ's law.

I experienced what felt like practically no grace in the time leading up to my dealings with court (though I had blind spots).

In all honesty, though the situation felt graceless, I needed behavioral and theological correction:

Matthew 7:5 - You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (ESV)

The question is, "Is joy over a wife and a family even something that is allowed in this world? Or in acting on joy over somebody will I run out of grace and run up against heaven's courts? Will I get even pushed out of church communities for wanting to show compassion? Or get pushed out of church communities for making a marriage proposal out of joy and peace?" That is what has happened to me. So the root cause of my depression is well defined. I feel like this has been unfair for me in both cases. I see other people with wives and families and why am I not allowed one? Who **actually** drew me into a situation where I found myself in court over the mariage proposal? I hold to external spiritual influences and ultimately God was overseeing it:

Acts 27:24 - and he said, Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you. (ESV)

I guess it's quite important to forsake all else for Jesus:

Luke 14:26 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate (**miseo**) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. (ESV)

The Pearl of Great Price is Jesus and we want to gain Christ, know Christ and invest our lives for His gospel. In following Jesus, eternal life is still a free gift because as Paul says here, what we give up is worthless compared to knowing Christ:

Philippians 3:7-8 - But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (ESV)

I think I John 2:15-17 is essentially saying, "Do not agape love the world or what's in the world. Do not love the things of this world with the type of love that we have for God and for people, namely agape love." If we fall out of agape love for the world and are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our minds then by testing we will be able to discern the will of God:

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love (**agapate**) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

We should forsake:

- the desires of the flesh, and
- the desires of the eyes,
- and pride in possessions

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (ESV)

Read star.net.nz: Protect your marriage

But God is our life (we can't trade God for anything):

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

But during the process it was as if all the grace was sucked out of the world (and to be honest, it's not the first time I've felt like I've been treated with absolutely no grace - I've felt often shot down for acting on love, joy and truth - punished for it).

But also, in retrospect I can see that I still had blind spots on myself after being born-again and entering court and my intuition was I should plead guilty because it felt like I was under God's microscope. I was right to try dying to my own ego, and I was right to believe that I was not completely without guilt, but this took some humbling, and overall I am glad that I pleaded guilty.

It's very important to maintain a clear conscience with God and with man, but to be ultimately faithful to God:

Acts 24:16 - So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. (ESV)

Our first allegiance must be to God:

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men. (ESV)

But the NZ government truly did graciously grant me an unbiased lawyer who graciously was payed for by the government, and the time I spent in the asylum did help to humble me and teach me more about loving my neighbour, and to admit my own faults with regards to God's law, but the legality as far as NZ law goes of me being sent and kept there I'd say is very grey, but the Police also did their jobs admirably, and took care of me when I was in a cell, and they also gave me a very small (but valuable) amount of time to be heard before having to plead guilty/not guilty. There wasn't exactly no grace in the court process but there was very little grace and an almost complete absence of truth in the court process, which felt mostly beyond my control.

But I'm on the other side of it now and feel like I have learned a lot about what it means to love my neighbour.

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (ESV)

The corrections process which happened after pleading guilty has been very gracious and very valuable.

So I decided to just use court as an opportunity to bear witness of Jesus Christ. And also, as a chance to learn humility, and be corrected:

Matthew 10:18 - and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth:

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Jesus was led like a lamb to the slaughter. I'm not Jesus, but my experience with court felt a lot like this. I'm an imperfect, fallible person though:

Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (ESV)

The other party, I never considered to be my adversaries! I only ever held love for them. Spiritually, it's not one side vs another in court but there are external spiritual influences:

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)

youtube.com: How God Uses Satan Every one of the sufferings that Jesus went through was lifting sin off of us and sin is the only thing Satan's got to kill us with. It's the only weapon he's got.

Satan cannot hurt you without sin. If you solve your sin problem, you solve your Satan problem. He can show you green things in the middle of the night and terrify you but he cannot hurt you. If Christ saves you from your sin through the cross he can never have you; never never ever have you again. Satan is the lucky, he's the lucky of God, he can't do anything without God's leash being lengthened, and God can shorten it anytime he pleases. Somehow or other God uses Satan as an intermediary cause was in some of the painful work that he ordains for our good.

Revelation of John 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)

II Corinthians 12:7-8 - So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. (ESV)

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect - love also the ones who hate you:

Matthew 5:38-48 - You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give

to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate (3404. miseō, 3404 miséō – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.) your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Keep in mind that what Jesus means by "perfect" is possible, because Jesus said the following, and this is how:

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said to him, If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. (ESV)

Hebrews 7:11 - Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? (ESV)

In Christ, we must "be perfect" in the sense that Jesus means when He says "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." In Christ, we must not hate one another. In Christ, we **must** agape love one another:

Colossians 3:13-14 - Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love (**26. agapé**), which is the bond of perfect unity. (engbsb2020eb)

I John 4:19-21 - We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Proverbs 25:21-22 - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. (ESV)

But they were never my enemies because I never considered them my enemy. I will always love them:

Didache Chapter 1 - ... But love those who hate you, and you shall not have an enemy. ...

After I was born-again I decided that Jesus was the most important thing and I began following Jesus, and learning to live by Christ's law.

I made the proposal during this time. I received a dream on 6 Aug, which happened to be the Feast of Transfiguration, I found out a year or so later, and made the proposal on 10 Aug, which is the 222 day of 2022, at 2:22pm. Honestly, at the time I just thought it sounded memorable and I wanted it to be. Go figure! I'm not going to justify my own actions here.

I find this interesting, notice the word for life (Zoe) has the Strongs number 2222.

John 5:12 (Interlinear):

1 3588 2192 3588 5207 2192 3588
 2 ho echōn ton Huion echei tēn
 3 T
 4 The [one] having the Son has -
 5 Art-NMS V-PPA-NMS Art-AMS N-AMS V-PIA-3S Art-AFS
 6
 7 2222 3588 3361 2192 3588 5207
 8 zōēn ho mē echōn ton Huion
 9 ; T
 10 life the [one] not having the Son
 11 N-AFS Art-NMS Adv V-PPA-NMS Art-AMS N-AMS
 12
 13 3588 2316 3588 2222 3756 2192
 14 tou Theou tēn zōēn ouk echei
 15 Θ , .
 16 - of God - life not has
 17 Art-GMS N-GMS Art-AFS N-AFS Adv V-PIA-3S

Being born of the Spirit unpredictable:

John 3:8 - The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

I'm endeavouring to work according to God's timing a bit more. I like having my days managed by the Holy Spirit. I never liked alarm clocks anyway:

Matthew 6:34 - Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

God's timing is not in any way predictable by man:

Matthew 25:13 - Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (ESV)

Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (ESV)

Honestly, I'm just really annoyed I haven't managed to put to death all impure thoughts and behaviour, and sin in my own body.

Romans 7:24 - Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (ESV)

But I know when it's wrong. I just pray for God's grace to be put all the impure thoughts and behaviour to death. I am fully aware of the warnings in chapter **II Peter 2:1-22**. God give me grace please to be sanctified and delivered:

II Peter 2:22 - What the true proverb says has happened to them: The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire. (ESV)

Keeping with obedience to Jesus Christ's commandments is very challenging as the world opposes those who Christ has selected.

John 15:19 - If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (ESV)

I personally believe that fulfilling Christ's law means doing no harm to your neighbour and pleading guilty does the least damage. Where pleading not guilty on easter would be not carrying my cross, and would be like the unforgiving servant:

Matthew 18:21-35 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, Pay what you owe. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you. He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, **You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.** (ESV)

I do not say I have done this perfectly, but I record this because I want to explain what obedient faith looks like, as I understand it, and to show that I simply meant no harm at all but I was simply born-again and I come against any spirit which ties to oppose that fact in Jesus Christ's name, and in Jehovah's name.

Also, in Jesus Christ's name I come against and rebuke any vindictive spirit or spirit of unforgiveness / antichrist / hatred / slander which continues to meddle in my affairs regarding the court process of 2022-2023 at the expense of either party (i.e. framing it as a zero-sum game where only one party must be innocent or only one party guilty) when I have pleaded guilty in good conscience before God and forgiven and I come against and rebuke any spirit which denies that both parties are guilty before God and in need of forgiveness and justification by God, and I pray that anyone involving themselves will learn the meaning of forgiveness, and pray they will come to exercise the love of Christ so they may abide in God:

Romans 3:23-24 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

Colossians 3:12-13 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** (ESV)

Forgiveness is very important:

Matthew 5:25 - Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. (ESV)

Matthew 6:14 - For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, (ESV)

Obedient faith looks like remaining faithful to Jesus Christ to one's best ability as an appropriate response of love for grace and justification already given - we hope that justification has already been given but we continue to obey God. We don't act like justification and obedience was a one time thing that happened in the past and now there's no more need to trust, hope and obey even for justification:

Philippians 3:13-21 - Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

We don't justify ourselves. Rather, we believe that God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus, and we don't stop having faith in Jesus - we live by that faith, now serving God. Living by faith in Jesus Christ looks like trusting, cleaving to, believing, obeying Jesus Christ to the end, putting our trust in God to justify even the ungodly. We don't justify ourselves but we still have faith to be justified by God as we hold faith in Jesus. We have faith that we are justified in advance of receiving that personal commendation from Jesus which we seek, but that doesn't mean we don't need to continue to obey! We still seek personal commendation from the Lord Jesus as we do not justify ourselves. So we should still live in faithful obedience to Jesus, following Him for the rest of our lives - just like Abraham's faith.

Jesus delivers us from the present evil age, that we may seek to please God as slaves/bond-servants of Christ:

Galatians 1:1-10 - Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the **Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — *not that there is another one*, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. For am I now **seeking the approval of man, or of God?** Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. (ESV)

youtube.com: Escape From This Evil Age | Derek Prince {@DerekPrinceMinistries} Galatians 1:4
- who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, (ESV)

Now, I want to point out to you certain simple objective facts revealed in the Bible about this present age. First of all, the most important thing you can know is it's coming to an end.

It's not going to last forever. Now, if you feel the way I do, you'll say, "Thank God, cuz I don't want the present age to continue. I think it's a mess, and I think it's getting steadily worse."

Let's look in Matthew chapter 13. This is the great chapter of the parables of the kingdom.

Matthew 13:39 - and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. (ESV)

Interpreting the parable of the wheat and the tears. Jesus says, "The enemy who sowed the tears is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age. The reapers of the angels."

So he says the harvest is the end of the age. When the harvest comes, the age is going to end. And in verse 40, he says, "Therefore, as the tears are gathered and burned in the fire, so it shall be at the end of this age.

...

It's extremely important for us all to realize this age is coming to an end. So, if we live as if it was going on forever, we're living in a delusion.

...

The next fact about this age states the reason why it's an evil age.

You turn to 2 Corinthians 4:4.

We have to read verse three to get the sentence.

II Corinthians 4:4 - The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (engbsb2020eb)

Who is the God who blinds the minds of unbelievers? Satan. And you know what he is? He's the God of this age.

...

Because certain things have to happen in the church and in Israel before the age will end. And the devil is a student of prophecy. He knows that. So if you're involved in the church, you're involved in a battle. And if you're involved with Israel, you're involved in a battle.

The saving grace we receive is primarily for the salvation of our souls, not in order to be materially-minded and agape loving the world (i.e. we're supposed to live godly lives in the knowledge of God, not ungodly lives living for materialism or false gods/idols) - but as we have fellowship with the brethren, we may live in peace and contentedness:

Ephesians 4:7 - But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:5 - even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— (ESV)

But I'm still hoping for more grace:

James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

I Peter 5:10 - And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (ESV)

What I mean to say is that, I think God is still justified in giving only enough grace to save the person's soul, while allowing them to be put to death for a response of obedience to Him.

Ephesians 4:7 - But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. (ESV)

We can still ask for more grace when we are in need:

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (ESV)

Consider St Polycarp en.wikipedia.org: Polycarp - Wikipedia

I had to sacrifice the marriage proposal I made being born again in order to not put her in first place, and also to abide by Christ's law because selfish agape is no agape at all and love comes from God, and it's because God loved us first that we love, and whatever is not done in faith is sin and without the type of love Jesus showed us, faith is dead. And this is challenging ask but it's what God asks of us.

We are faithful first and foremost to God:

I Corinthians 7:12-15 - To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But **if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved.** God has called you to peace. (ESV)

I am a new creation:

II Corinthians 5:14-17 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh (G4561 sarx). Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh (G4561 sarx), we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Being a new creation is a new start where we are repenting from sin, and putting on holiness, and walking according to the spirit fulfilling the requirement of the law:

Colossians 3:5-10 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these *you too once walked, when you were living in them.* But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have **put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**

Romans 8:3-4 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** (ESV)

In anticipation of any spiritual backlash I will leave the following disclaimer In Jesus Christ's name I rebuke any spirit which tries to put the old issues of the past (before I was born-again on 2 April 2022) back on to me. I am a new Creation in Christ Jesus ever since I was born-again and regenerated on 2 April 2022. As I understand it, as of then I had a completely clean record. I'm basically 2 years old. On top of that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Yes the Apostle John says that we ought to pass-forward love as a response, but I also have the right to move on completely from things which did not work out, and I offer that same right to others as well.

Our debt was cancelled:

Colossians 2:11-15 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (ESV)

Therefore, since I am a new creation, brought from death to life, I must live out the new identity. I'm currently fighting this battle:

Romans 6:12-14 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Effort Needed to Fight Sin: Living Out Identity in Christ, Part 2

We love in the knowledge we have already **been** loved first when God sent Jesus Christ to pay for our sin with His blood. I was born-again of the Spirit and regenerated on 2 April 2022.

That's how we are found **in** God, by accepting that He loved us first through Jesus Christ, and God puts us into Him.

John 13:6-7 - He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, do you wash my feet? Jesus answered him, What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:5 - even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— (ESV)

As far as my court situation goes, it happened **after** I was born-again and regenerated. My debt was already cancelled. I want to be clear about this because I don't want to mislead anyone. I strongly believe that I was hit by an antichrist spirit trying to make it appear as though I needed to work for my salvation - this happened after I was born of the Spirit! Madness! I had just been born-again!

I've also been hit with other things, like being pounded and barraged with LGBT dreams, and lewd antichrist dreams and visions, interactions with people who just don't want to submit to the righteousness of God (not believing they need to accept Jesus as Saviour, not believing they need to accept forgiveness from God, or the Lordship of Jesus, not wanting to obey God) and also people telling me that following Jesus' commandments is wrong, and also literally having antichrist thoughts pushed into my head as I am sleeping. There's no denying I've been attacked by antichrist spirits and I noticed it after I was born-again of the Spirit - and I don't want a bar of it.

While the following verse seems relevant, I still believe the real adversary I have faced is not the other people in my court situation but the influence of unclean spirits:

Matthew 5:25-26 - Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. (ESV)

We must turn to obedience to Jesus and loving with Christ's love to come to know Him. We **ought to*/must** love as Christ loved us, as He is our Lord and Teacher, but Jesus **WASHED** (past-tense) us and then we **ought** to love as He did and we practice personal righteousness while having His imputed righteousness, as he is our Master.

We are forgiven to do the will of God. We are saved to obey God better. God puts us into Christ. We obey to wash others, and for ourselves to be sanctified, like a branch becoming healthier in the tree:

John 13:12-16 - When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also **ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.** Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (ESV)

We are cleaned by the blood of Christ to serve the living God:

Matthew 4:10 - Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (ESV)

We serve God by serving Christ:

Romans 16:17-20 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Christians are instructed to love our enemies, to have the love of our Heavenly Father:

Matthew 5:43-44 - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (ESV)

I still believe strongly that there was an antichrist spirit meddling in the situation with court in 2022, diametrically opposed to grace, Christian marriage, forgiveness, mercy, and the truth of Jesus, with an agenda of pressuring me to be deceived into thinking I was not forgiven, and pressuring me to be deceived that I needed to pay for my salvation with good works, but I have done all my good works out of obedience, knowing I am born again and forgiven, price paid in full with Jesus' blood.

I have lots of evidence of this. Jehovah knows it.

Sermon He says in **Revelation 12:10**, he said, first-hand, "for the accuser of the brethren who accuses them before God day and night has been cast out."

Here's what I want you to see: The thing that's going to cause complete and total breakthrough is not you defeating a demon on a battlefield...

It is you silencing the argument of a demon against you.

When you silence the voice of the accuser the full breakthrough is now free to come you see.

In other words, what is stopping us from coming into the full breakthrough God has for us is not a demon on a battlefield, it's an argument in the spirit world against you.

And we have to know how to go in to the spirit world in silence that argument.

We have to know how to accomplish that because when we do, when we were able to silence the argument, then all of a sudden everything that we were made for, everything that we were created to accomplish, every destiny every purpose ,every breakthrough begins to be set into place so that we can experience what God has for us.

Because that's what you have to do with an accuser.

Now, the next verse tells us how to do.

Here's what he says he says, "and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives unto death." So there's three things he says here, three things that are necessary to overcome the accuser.

He says very clearly, it says, "these are the way they overcame him".

This is the way they silenced the legal argument against them, was they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto death.

Okay, number one, the blood of the Lamb, and we've talked about this a little bit but the blood of the Lamb is what you use to dismiss cases against you.

That's what you do with the blood.

The blood is used to dismiss cases that the enemy would claim against you.

Why?

Because when I come and I repent, when I come and I repent and through my repentance agree with the blood of lamb, when I do that then what happens is that the blood is able to now silence the voices that would be speaking against me that the accuser would be using.

I use the blood to silence the voice [of the accuser]. Of course that's Hebrews 12:24:

Hebrews 12:24 - and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (ESV)

Now let me just show you one scripture.

Why it's important to repent:

I John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

It literally says **keeps on** cleansing us from all sin.

That's actually the verbiage - it keeps on cleansing us. Why? Because the blood is 'not that which was spoke, it is that which is speaking'.

That's what it said.

There is a blood that *speaks* better things.

The blood isn't something that was spoke about you.

The blood is **speaking** concerning you.

So watch, it says that the blood keeps on cleansing us from all sin, but only when we walk in the light as he is in the light.

What does that mean?

That means I come out of darkness into the light.

That means I have to repent.

Repentance is coming out of darkness and into light.

So you cannot get the benefits of the blood, you cannot agree with what the blood is saying about you unless you come out of darkness and into light.

As we walk in the light as he is in the light, the blood of Jesus keeps on cleansing us from all unrighteousness at all sins.

Does that make sense?

So it's very important to repent: that we come and we acknowledge, we come in yoder hearts, we come in surrender, we ask for the blood to speak in our behalf, and it begins to speak in our behalf, and the cases that are against us whether it's because by sin by transgression or by iniquity, those cases are dismissed.

In Jesus Christ's name I rebuke the antichrist spirit which continues to attack me and deny the grace, forgiveness and atonement which I have received through faith in Jesus Christ, as if God has not forgiven me especially in regards to the sins of my past particularly before I was born-again of water and the Spirit on 2 April 2022. I rebuke that spirit in Jesus Christ's name and in Jehovah's name. Also as I continue walking in the light as Jesus is in the light, even when I sin, the blood of Jesus continues to wash me clean. So in Jesus Christ's name I rebuke any antichrist spirit continuing to bother me, whether in my sleep or through other people.

When it comes to 'works' and 'law-keeping', I believe disciples of Jesus should know they have been forgiven by grace through faith and they should also practice their righteousness, but the "works" is not the "obedience". The works come out of obedience, out of being a "doer of the law". Christians should **both** submit to the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, having the imputed righteousness of Christ that we believe we have as we are walking with Christ and Christians should practice righteousness too (as Jesus said, "go and sin no more"), and Christians should seek to keep accountability primarily to God in regards to the law because He sees everything, and **secondarily** have good conscience with men, to love as Jesus loved, and give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's - and God owns our hearts - and we should be prepared to die for Jesus, and remain faithful to Jesus. When a person practices their righteousness, then they are "doers of the law" from the heart. A person who has accepted forgiveness for their sin by the atonement made in Jesus' blood should certainly endeavour after that to fulfill practically the Royal Law, that is to love one's neighbour as themself, even owing that to other people:

Matthew 23:2-7 - The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you—but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. (ESV)

Our work for God is not in vain, and it's all grace:

I Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

But at the time I was being led by the Spirit, walking in seeking to know Jesus Christ through following His commandments, so I decided I would use it as an opportunity in what felt like a graceless situation to demonstrate Christ's love and to make testimony of Jesus, and to 'take any log out of my own eye' - to be corrected - because despite already walking in obedience to Jesus, He is my Lord and Teacher, and I want to love Jesus more and be taught by Jesus more.

Most importantly is a good conscience with God, but I try also to do right with my fellow man, even if I disagree with them or if I think they may not be walking in Christ's love:

Acts 24:16 - So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. (ESV)

Paid the last penny? I believe that Jesus paid my debt, and by faith in Jesus I was born again of Jesus' Spirit and I was grafted into Jesus, but that I should pass forward mercy and forgiveness, thus it **looks** like being taken to court as a criminal, but I think the situation reflects having been put into Christ and following as a disciple and friend of Jesus:

Matthew 5:26 - Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. (ESV)

Colossians 2:14 - by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (ESV)

Jesus went to the cross in the appearance of a criminal, but He committed no crime:

John 10:18 - No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. (ESV)

I can't claim perfect innocence:

I John 1:8-10 - If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

Romans 3:4 - By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged. (ESV)

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)

What I can do is apply Jesus' instructions for being His disciple, and bear fruit for Jesus:

John 15:1-14 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

We must practice the truth:

John 3:21 - But he who **practices the truth** comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are **being sanctified**.

Even though my debt was cancelled, and I was a new creation, born-again of water and the Spirit, washed in Jesus' blood, I still obey Jesus to pass-forward love and forgiveness to others, and to continue being cleansed by the blood of Jesus. I must continue walking in the light.

After being born-again of the spirit I don't say I'm completely sinless - that would be deceiving myself.

But I continue walking in the light, in trusting obedience to Jesus, and Jesus' blood continues to cleanse me from all sin:

I John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

Sometimes you don't know if you're in the right or wrong, so forgiving others' offences towards you is freeing yourself:

Matthew 18:21-35 - Then Peter came up and said to him, Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, Pay what you owe. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, Have patience with me, and I will pay you. He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his

fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, **You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not **forgive your brother from your heart.** (ESV)

AMEN!! This doesn't justify the mistakes I've made in the past, but I do believe that the Son of God dying on the cross and making me into a new creation should be enough atonement from anyone's perspective to allow me to have a clean slate, have a fresh start, change my ways, and to live rightly without being harassed by people or by evil spirits. But I also want to be found to be a disciple of Jesus, passing forward His love and forgiveness, as I have received it:

Romans 6:11 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Worthy | Live | Elevation Worship

I wont allow myself to be buried in condemnation by other people or by the enemy. Rather, I'll just use this as an opportunity to live faithfully to God with gratitude and an appropriate response of obedience and love for God and love for Jesus while on this earth:

Romans 6:12-13 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. (ESV)

star.net.nz: How to have peace (3) - June 10th (2) Accept God's pardon. Guilt is the top destroyer of peace. When we feel guilty, we feel haunted by our past. We read about people who make amends for a wrong they committed thirty years earlier, saying, 'I was living in hell all those years and had to get it off my chest.' The only way to have peace is to possess a clear conscience, and only God is able to give you that. 'Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives...transgression?...You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy' (Micah 7:18 NIV). Notice, Micah reveals God is eager – ready and waiting – to clean your slate. He enjoys forgiving. He owns a big eraser. It's his personality: 'If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9 NIV).

Isaiah 54:17 - no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD. (ESV)

Matthew 24:9 - Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. (ESV)

Now I'm saying that it's all in God's hands, and I've made an effort to have Jesus as the number one most important person in my life, and I feel like I have a good conscience with God, and I have been acting in truth (I have peace, and joy, and the fruit of the Holy Spirit with my decisions and I wouldn't change much. I'd still have made the proposal. It wasn't a mistake) and trying to conform to God's truth and also, trying to walk with faith in Jesus Christ, and fully with God, to my best endeavor, but God is the justifier. And I am as far as I can tell now in good conscience with God and a bachelor.

I Timothy 1:19 - holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, (ESV)

Job 22:24-26 - if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. (ESV)

God wants us to love Him, treasure Him (25. agapaó), value Him with all our heart, and love and value
youtube.com: What Is It Like to Enjoy God? @time: 35 min 16 sec

I have absolutely no unforgiveness or grudge with anyone involved regarding what has happened with the marriage proposal and I just want God to completely deliver me from the evil.

I still hope for the personal acknowledgement from God that I have acted faithfully to Him!

Matthew 25:21 - His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. (ESV)

We're always seeking God's commendation:

Galatians 1:10 - For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. (ESV)

The righteous live by their faith in Jesus - in belief to His promises and in obedience to His commandments all of our life as Christians - hoping for God's commendation.

We live to serve Jesus, believing we are justified by our faith in Him, and not relying on our own righteousness, but we're still living by our faith in God and in Jesus His Son.

I think it's possible to say, "I've been justified by Jesus' blood because I'm having faith in Jesus and I'm living to serve Him and I believe He is saving me from the wrath of God and I'm going to continue believing and obeying Him to receive the sanctification."

And then we await personal commendation from God.

Disbelief causes disobedience. Disbelief caused the Israelites to not walk in obedience:

Hebrews 3:16-19 - For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:13 - though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:5-12 - Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. (ESV)

I think here, the problem is that Moses and Aaron did not trust God that if they spoke to the rock before the eyes of the congregation that the rock would yield its water, and so did not do as God had commanded in speaking to the rock. In distrust, Moses struck the rock instead; Moses disobeyed. God was very clear that Moses should speak to the rock, but instead Moses struck the rock with the rod. Moses didn't get away with it. You can't cheat God. God sees our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts. God knows when we reason our way of actually doing what He asks of us. God knows when we try to find a way around actually doing what He commands of us. Man might be able to convince man that they're doing the will of God when they're not really doing it, but no-one can cheat God and get away with it:

Numbers 20:8-12 - “Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink.” So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, “Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?” Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.” (NASB)

I think it's dangerous and probably incorrect to say, "I've been justified and saved from the wrath of God" without having become trustingly obedient to Jesus, or without having become someone steadfastly hoping in Him to fulfill His promises.

Hebrews 6:11-15 - And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the **full assurance of hope** until the end, so that you may **not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises**. For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, Surely I will bless you and multiply you. And thus Abraham, **having patiently waited, obtained the promise.** (ESV)

Hebrews 4:3 - For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, As I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter my rest, although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:14-15 - For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. (ESV)

We aren't the justifiers of ourselves ever, but we still have faith that we are justified already by God as we hold faith in Jesus, and we don't necessarily know **when** God has personally justified us by faith because, like Abraham's faith, it's from obedience to God's commandments that we get personal assurance. But if we are hoping in God's promises while serving Jesus then we certainly can have confidence that God will/has justified us, where if we are not agapé-ing God and our family in Christ, serving Jesus then I think to say that we are justified and saved from God's wrath while going on doing evil is very daring and I wouldn't be surprised if that person receives the wrath of God.

We have to become "doers" of Christ's commandments having faith in Jesus and loving the children of God as commanded and out of that faith and obedience will come good works:

Romans 2:6-11 - He will render to each one according to his works: **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;** but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for **every human being who does evil**, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

II Peter 2:4-9 - For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to **keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,** (ESV)

So I have a small problem with what Derek Prince says at the end here. But I have faith in Jesus' blood, and I have faith that God justifies the one who puts their faith in Christ Jesus. I trust Jesus, I believe Jesus and I

obey Jesus. I could be better but I'm a new creation who trusts and obeys Jesus now. Not perfectly but I still do. Jesus is my Lord and Saviour. That doesn't mean I say, "I am justified." I trust and obey Jesus. I have confidence that God sees everything. I have confidence because I believe on the name of His Son and keep His commandments. God is sovereign to justify the one who places their faith in Christ Jesus. I'm not going to justify myself. I'm not saying I'm not justified. I'm not saying I am justified. I'm not going to be the justifier of myself. I will just put my faith in Jesus and keep the faith and that's enough assurance for me. Also, striving to enter is OK, I think. I don't completely agree with everything Derek Prince has said, but I do believe we need to submit to the righteousness of God by faith in Jesus' blood. But I believe that God tests the hearts and is the one to grant this righteousness.

Luke 16:15 - And he said to them, You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. (ESV)

Luke 5:22 - When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, Why do you question in your hearts? (ESV)

Romans 10:10 - For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (ESV)

Romans 8:30 - And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (ESV)

I believe in holding to faith in God to grant me the imputed righteousness of Jesus, while continuing to trust in Jesus and obey Jesus, and God is the one to grant that righteousness. Because God justifies the one who puts their faith in Jesus (trusting Jesus). So I'll trust the correct God, the God who justifies the ungodly. That means trusting in Jesus Himself. And God can do the justifying and the assurance-giving. I'll fight for my position on this. I think my perspective here is more Scripturally correct than Derek's.

Faith maintains hope in God to fulfill His promises:

youtube.com: Future-Oriented Faith Justifying faith, the faith that justifies you that makes you right with God that receives the imputation of righteousness is future-oriented faith in the promises of God.

Faith first looks back to Jesus and it takes a step back and says, "I believe God Almighty sent his son died for my sins raised him from the dead covers all my sins imputes to me his righteousness" and standing on that rock of past accomplished salvation, faith looks steadfastly into the future ... and faith on the basis of this assurance and security believes the promises of God for this reality called future and that's the way we live.

See how faithfulness is related to faith - faith is faithful to God. Having faith in God **is** keeping accountability with God with regard to His commands and promises and maintaining faithfulness with God who sees in secret:

II Timothy 2:13 - if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:30-31 - For we know him who said, Vengeance is mine; I will repay. And again, The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (ESV)

We are justified through holding faith in Jesus:

Romans 3:21-28 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (ESV)

There is a way of following the commandments of God that is by faith, compatible with keeping faith in Jesus, and that is in seeking praise from God, not from men - it's not about trying to keep a good conscience by justifying yourself in the eyes of men, but it's about keeping a good conscience by keeping accounts with God:

Romans 2:26-29 - So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and **circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter. **His praise is not from man but from God.** (ESV)

Luke 16:15 - And he said to them, You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. (ESV)

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

It **may** have happened when we first believed. I would suggest holding to that belief and going on obeying Jesus like someone alive from the dead, serving God:

John 3:36 - He who **believes in the Son** has eternal life; but he who does not **obey the Son** will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

I just want to continue to live faithfully to Jesus for the rest of my life, as I also hold faith that God is my justifier. I want God to justify me / have justified me, as the way in which we are justified is that God does the justifying of the one who has faith in Jesus. So the plan is to really be transformed by the gospel and live in the truth of God's word, and seek God's commendation, and live in the reality that God is for me and not against me as I hold faith in Jesus. I'll give it my best shot:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

It certainly appears that we're not supposed to simply do some righteous thing and then lean on that. Rather we're supposed to 'live by' our faith, – keep going, and not shrink back:

Ezekiel 33:13 - Though **I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die.** (ESV)

Proverbs 4:18 - But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. (ESV)

We should be growing in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

II Peter 3:18 - But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (ESV)

This is in line with what is written in Hebrews:

Hebrews 10:37-39 - For, Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall **live by** faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But **we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed**, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)

This morning <2024-10-13 Sun>, I woke up to a dream of my Dad and my little brother Joshua in the bosom of my Dad and my Dad said, "Pardon me." - I woke up and thought about this. God doesn't make mistakes. We should not hold grudges with God, but instead we should be sanctified through faith in Jesus. We are to agape love God with our whole heart.

And I remembered this Bible verse:

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (ESV)

Now, writing this out, I realise it connects to this verse:

Matthew 5:8 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (ESV)

Recently, I have written about agape-love. Jesus commanded us to agape love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Agape love does not bear a grudge or take vengeance. Agape love is a saving, treasuring, valuing, love. We need to treasure Jesus' words, and treasure God Himself. God has to be our number one treasure and we must agape-love our wives too with the same agape love which Christ showed us, and we must agape-love those in Christ, and we are called to agape-love all people but we must not have any agape for anything of the world. And I know that what the dream I had was saying was pointing out that agape-loving God first also means not bearing a grudge with God.

Job 9:2-3 - Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before God? If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times. (ESV)

I was born-again on 1 Nisan, (2 April 2022). Then had a meeting with Holy Spirit (maybe) on 3 May 2022 and I said my God is the True God and Jesus saved me from lies. I was the one who confessed Jesus to that spirit who claimed to be Holy Spirit. Then on 6 Aug 2022 (feast of transfiguration of Christ) I had a dream/vision of someone I wanted to marry and on the 10 Aug, the 222nd day of 2022 at 2:22pm I proposed marriage. Then it felt like witchcraft - I was pulled into court over harassment and forced to plead a week before easter. I pleaded guilty because I was following Jesus' commandments, and only because in an extremely strict sense I am guilty. I claim that it felt like all the grace in the world was utterly sucked out of the world when I was pulled into court for breaking bail by copying out reformed church quiz night results and being baptised and telling the other side I was baptised after a harassment charge from proposing marriage - absurd, I know, but around the time I proposed marriage, I had been giving to a hindu guy who was asking me for help (I was just obeying Jesus) and I pleaded guilty in this absurd situation where I am taken to court over marriage proposal because it does no harm to the other party and because I love them. It was agape love which does no harm to your neighbour and treasures your neighbour and in court the judge on 3 May 2023 told me I must have been baptised at midnight and that I'm not remorseful. I have been trying to love literally everybody. Being denied marriage not necessarily this one incident but generally in my life surely comes from demons / antichrist spirit.

I had confessed Jesus to the spirit, as documented. But I asked, "Are you the Holy Spirit?" They said, "Yes, I'll take a look at you." But that doesn't mean that it was the Holy Spirit.

Jesus in me utterly defeats antichrist spirit and I will go to war against this thing which has been trying to rob, kill and destroy me, the people I love and my testimony of being born-again. With the authority that Jesus gave His disciples I will trample on snakes and scorpions and trample on that antichrist spirit and rebuke it into utter destruction.

Daniel 7:25 - He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (ESV)

Having been born-again, I have the right to live in the newness of life, with a clean slate, living righteously, to live for Christ, and I have the right to be rid from sinful things. What is very sadistic is that I believe that what is good was called evil in order to show that gay 'marriage' is good, and I think that literally satan tried to rob me of living set free from sin.

Romans 6:4-6 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would **no longer be enslaved to sin.** (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:15 - and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. (ESV)

Galatians 5:24 - And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (ESV)

But I yelled at the judge in court saying he is a liar because to say I am unremorseful for harassment via a marriage proposal and sentencing me for doing good, calling good evil and evil good, while I was following Jesus and trying to keep His commandments - I found that the judge lacked respect for God's precepts and for God. And to me this felt like being born-again and then crucified in court over making a marriage proposal with a good conscience and sincere faith. I used the opportunity to make testimony of Jesus. Then received international slander and feeling like I was the victim of a sin like the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit or something, and continually being oppressed by demons preventing me from marrying, trying to push me into LGBT and I felt like the devil tried to steal my blessings and tried to bury me for making testimony of Jesus. I have felt like I had the Kingdom of God taken away from me (peace, joy and righteousness in the Holy Spirit) after being born-again, regenerated, made new - and I pray to God daily for Him to fix my life. But Jehovah God (Father God and Jesus Christ God's Son and Holy Spirit) are my number 1 agape love for sure. But I will speak the truth of what happened here.

We can't be unfaithful to Jesus Christ and expect to have joy. Joy comes from maintaining faith and a good conscience with God. I doubt Peter had joy right after denying being a disciple of Jesus, and I doubt Judas had any joy when he chose to hang himself after betraying Jesus:

Job 20:4-5 - Do you not know this from of old, since man was placed on earth, that the exulting of the wicked is short, and the joy of the godless but for a moment? (ESV)

Loving God means also obeying His commandments - and His great commandments and fulfilling the requirement of the Law. Am I to love God with my whole heart if I take the person I propose to trial and waste years of her life in court? It's not loving God to do evil against my neighbour.

The blood of Jesus is enough for me to be washed white as snow. Christ is enough for me. Give me Jesus and a good conscience. But I don't forgive satan, nor his angels, nor his demons. Nor do I affirm anyone who does not submit to the righteousness of God.

My God is the God who instituted marriage between man and woman.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (ESV)

Micah 6:8 - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (ESV)

72.7.2 Humility

Being born-again, I actually had a lot to learn about humility, and service.

Talk youtube.com: How to be Humble

Quote from Martin Luther King Jr.:

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

72.7.3 Marriage should not become idolatry

The Hebrew has two words for 'helper'. The word which the greek in **John 14** refers to I believe is the Saviour one:

- 1
- 2 savior, deliverer, helper, saviour

But the Hebrew for helper in **Genesis 2:18** is not the 'saviour' but the assistant!:

- 1
- 2 assistant, aide, helper, second

Genesis 2:18 - Then the Lord (H3068 Yhovah) God (H430 'elohiyim) said (H559 'amar), "It is not good (H2896 towb) for the man (H120 'adam) to be alone (H905 bad); I will make (H6213 'asah) him a helper (H5828 'ezer) suitable (H5048 neged) for him."

72.8 The spiritual attack I have received in recent times

If see the disturbing visions etc. and spiritual attacks as indications that I am not fully sanctified, rather than **simply** blaming the enemy attacking me all the time, even though the attack surely may or does come from the enemy then:

- I have a hope of being fully sanctified
 - **II Corinthians 7:1** - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)
 - **Philippians 1:6** - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)
- as demoralizing as it is to be attacked so continually, I see its part in the greater picture of working out my salvation
- I can be less focused on the enemy's distractions, and more focused on the truth, God's Word, Scripture and Jesus
- Be thankful to God for His work in me
- I can be kinder to people knowing that this isn't all about me

My spiritual experiences are not *all* bad, but it has been very bad at times, and really good at times too. I'm "in the Spirit" now and I am engaged in spiritual warfare and I'm very tired.

It makes sense that I've been receiving spiritual attack because I'm at war with satan's kingdom after being born of the Spirit:

- youtube.com: Casting Down Strongholds | Derek Prince
- youtube.com: Robert Henderson | 1. Courts of Heaven

I'll be listening to music such as this to help maintain the correct perspective against lies that come from the enemy through dreams and through other people:

Radio <https://www.star.net.nz/>

Song youtube.com: Who You Say I Am - Hillsong Worship

Song youtube.com: Jesus Paid It All - Kim Walker-Smith | Worship Circle Hymns

The more vocal I become about Jesus and the more I align with the Truth and reject false-religion, and the more I disagree with sin as I repent from it, the more resistance I appear to be getting.

My sleep has in recent times become highly disrupted as I've been bombarded with demonic dreams - things I can't even mention - pro-false-religion, anti-Christianity, pro-sinful things type dreams. Littered amongst those I sometimes also get Bible verses, or dreams of singing worship songs, etc. I frequently are tested through other people too.

youtube.com: How to Seek the Holy Spirit @time: 16 min 59 sec He is the spirit of Truth according to **John 14:17, John 15:26, John 16:13**, and He brings to our minds whatever truth we need, little or much. He will bring it to your mind. All the forces of darkness will seek to confuse you and obscure the light of truth in that hour. All the proportions of power in this world will appear to make God look distant, small, ineffective — like nothing. That is the goal of Satan and sin: to make God look useless and worthless. **The work of the Holy Spirit in that hour — the work of the Spirit of truth — is to rest upon you with whatever measure of truth you will need in order to be faithful.**

AMEN, John Piper. Yup, this is my experience too. God is faithful though even when I am unfaithful.

Romans 8:20-21 - For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (ESV)

Thanks to John Piper for helping me to maintain perspective on suffering, even for struggling against sin:

Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

youtube.com: Put to Death the Deeds of the Body @time: 55 min 28 sec The global context of my suffering is that he says, "all creation is awaiting my coming out into sonship". Until you are manifested, creation's holding back, and when you are manifested creation will say, "all right, here we come." And all the futility of the natural world will be removed. All the horrors of natural calamities will be taken away. But that's all waiting until God does his redemptive work on you.

Even though it may seem strange to you that if a person comes to you with suffering that you'd want to help them get into a global context, maybe do it at a better time. Like right now we're doing it so that when you go home and find some horrible thing has happened, you will be able not just to deal with it in some little microcosm of your life and how God works everything together for your good, but that it's part of something absolutely huge.

Read desiringgod.org: How to Seek the Holy Spirit | Desiring God

John 14:17 - even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

John 15:26 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **he will bear witness about me.** (ESV)

John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (ESV)

Anyway, I see this stuff in the spirit very easily (it's just like having eyes I didn't have before) after being born of the Spirit, and the way to fight against the evil is with the Word of God:

Matthew 4:9-11 - And he said to him, All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (ESV)

The Word of God is a light to our path:

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (ESV)

I think what this verse says is that putting a stop to sin 'closes doors' which the enemy uses to attack:

I John 5:18 - We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. (ESV)

Psalms 66:18 - If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (ESV)

I'm fighting hard against evil spirits to make no provision for the flesh:

Romans 13:12-14 - The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us **cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light**. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.** (ESV)

I Peter 4:5-10 - but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might **live in the spirit the way God does**. The end of all things is at hand; therefore **be self-controlled and sober-minded** for the sake of your prayers. Above all, **keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins**. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good **stewards** of God's varied grace: (ESV)

We must live in the spirit the way God does, not for human passions, but for the will of God:

I Peter 4:1-6 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might **live in the spirit the way God does.** (ESV)

Romans 8:1-17 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into

fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

youtube.com: John Piper and Tim Keller Wrestle with Sanctification {@desiringGod} @time: 2 min 9 sec

I think Walther Marshall's The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification says it this way, that "you need the comforts of the Gospel in order to fulfill the law". So that's pretty much what I would say too.

Research:

- youtube.com: How Demons Gain Entry Into A Person | Derek Prince

72.9 The very reason I found myself in court is for coming to the light, and for exposing darkness, even that of my own fault, but that meant doing the right thing even though it would give me a conviction

John 3:21 - But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been **carried out in God.** (ESV)

Jehovah God as my witness.

72.10 I'm definitely leaving this stuff in God's court

At the end of the day I am resting on the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus - Amen to that. It's by faith in Jesus' name that we are forgiven.

I've been going through a lot of trial and tribulation over the last 2 years:

I Peter 1:6-9 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love (G25. agapaó) him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

By the Holy Spirit we are supposed to put to death the deeds of the body:

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

But if there is a spirit-spouse manifesting spiritually and messing with me physically and a bunch of other demonic attacks and it doesn't go away when I rebuke it in Jesus' name, and it resists when I use Scriptures, and the attack lasts for 600 days almost every day, then I feel like the challenge of fighting back is just too difficult. At least I do not feel as guilty about it. But I think I should continue to true to fight against it.

I sometimes worry that some of the spiritual attack experiences I've had are so extreme that my mistakes involving them can't be forgiven but God knows my heart and how I think the spiritual attack situations I've been in are so extreme and so excessive and so relentless that they ordeal is just plain unfair - a stich-up:

Matthew 12:31-32 - Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. (ESV)

Luke 12:10 - And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. (ESV)

I John 3:20 - for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (ESV)

Yeah, this morning <2024-06-28 Fri> I had a night swamped with such evil dreams. God knows why. So evil that I cannot even mention them. This is the day after writing about how Christians should be like children of Father God, that is Jehovah:

Psalms 91:5-8 - You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. (ESV)

The Golden Rule, I think explains that we should behave like a child of Father God who is by nature Good and gives good gifts to His children, and gifts that are truly good, far exceeding any amount of favour we might show our own children. As we behave like a child of Father God, believing the gospel of Jesus, and loving with Christ's love, we can really say our Father is God, as a child takes after their parents, and a child of Father God behaves like Jesus and follows Jesus. We try to follow Jesus, and imitate Christ's pattern, as Christ is **the** Son of God.

Yeah, I am at my limits to what I can endure.

This has been going on every day for nearly 2 years.

Any Christians out there pray for me please that God will stop allowing the evil spirits to attack me.

Psalms 88:18 - You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness. (ESV)

Psalms 10:1 - Why, O LORD, do you stand afar off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? (ESV)

Psalms 10:12 - Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted. (ESV)

Also, to "be holy as He is holy" when people deny relationships and marriage, and just heap on heavy burdens, asking even more of me, without lifting a finger to help, and then simultaneously I'm attacked with a spirit spouse at night, for example, and I'm supposed to just ignore it - well it feels like an impossibility to remain clean.

So a complaint I have to Almighty God Jehovah is that remaining holy in all my conduct during the trial I have faced has felt impossibly difficult, and very graceless, and I've felt "under the pump", in constant spiritual warfare, and I have been constantly denied work and a marriage partner!

Colossians 2:18-21 - Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (ESV)

Paul says:

- He has the right to eat and drink
- He has the right to take along a believing wife, just like other believers
- It seems just even by God's law that as working as an apostle he may reap material things from the ones he is serving
 - If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you

- He has the right to refrain from working for a living
 - Because he is working for God
 - * Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?
 - * Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit?
 - * Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?
- Even God's law says the same:
 - Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.

I Corinthians 9:3-14 - This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. (ESV)

Paul doesn't claim his full rights in the gospel (even rights shown by God's precepts in God's law) that He might receive reward from God for going beyond the call of His duty:

I Corinthians 9:12,9:15-18 - If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. But **I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.** For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. (ESV)

We must keep and accept the precepts of God over the precepts of men:

Mark 7:6-9 - And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, **This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.** And he said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (ESV)

This passage is condemning submitting to **worldly / human** precepts and imploring us to submit to God's precepts. It's not condemning God's precepts but imploring us to put to death what is against God's precepts:

Colossians 2:20-23,3:1-6 - If with Christ you **died to the elemental spirits of the world**, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to **human precepts** and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you have been **raised with Christ, seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** (ESV)

I've kept a good conscience with God, and with men, being obedient to Jesus over the last 2 years:

I Timothy 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience.** By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (ESV)

I'm definitely taking this stuff to God's court and asking for grace to be sanctified/delivered.

James 4:6 - But **he gives more grace.** Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

II Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (ESV)

I have felt spiritually damaged/injured by what I've had to endure regarding a "spirit spouse / defilement" - I simply don't understand why that thing has been allowed to touch me for 1.5 years and push lewd dreams into my head. This daily bombardment of demonic dreams, and visions is very demoralizing but especially when I succumb to "defilement" often because of anxiety, and when I don't keep perspective (i.e. when I fail to praise God through trial). I believe that I will be totally healed.

youtube.com: Called to Be Saints | Charles Spurgeon | Devotional | Morning & Evening: Daily Readings

All are "saints" whom God has called by His grace **and sanctified** by His Spirit; but we are apt to look upon the apostles in the New Testament as extraordinary beings, scarcely subject to the same weaknesses and temptations as ourselves. Yet in so doing, we are forgetful of this truth that the nearer a man lives to God the more intensely he has to mourn over his own evil heart. **the more also does the evil of the flesh provoke and harass him day by day.**

youtube.com: Don't Defile The Temple Of The Holy Spirit | Derek Prince {@DerekPrinceWithSubtitles}

Now put compulsion and enslaving together, you get addiction, and our contemporary culture is full of addictions.

And I would say 99.9 percent of them are demonic. Let me give you a Scripture from 1 Corinthians chapter 6. This is for me the Biblical definition of addiction.

Verse 12. All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. I would prefer to say beneficial. So all things are lawful. I'm not on any law which says "Thou shall not eat, and thou shall not do this and that." But not everything is beneficial. All things are lawful for me but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

I Corinthians 6:12-13 - All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food-and

God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. (ESV)

So overeating and sexual immorality are specifically mentioned by Paul as possible examples of addictions. And an addict is a slave and I'm sorry to say the church is full of addicts. Not all of them are addicts but there are many, many good Christians who are nevertheless slaves. Slaves of masturbation, slaves of idle talk, slaves of defiling habits, slaves of wrong attitudes, slaves of wrong eating and drinking.

I have come to see that my body is a temple for the Holy Spirit and I'm responsible for how I treat that temple. I am not free to defile it.

I'm not free to do anything that would make it less good than it should be.

I am very careful about what I eat and what I drink. I'm not under any law, but I try to honor God's temple.

How about you? Are you taking care of your temple? If it were a physical material temple you'd be very careful about it wouldn't you? I mean you'd keep it swept, you'd keep the windows clean, you wouldn't allow dust to accumulate, you wouldn't let the toilet get clogged.

What about your physical temple? How well are you maintaining that?

Let me say this and it's just I make no extra charge for it. I came to the United States in the 1960s. And I have myself; this is my personal subjective impression. There have been three strong men, one after the other over this nation that have sought to dominate it. The first was rebellion. In the 1960s there was an upsurge of rebellion. Well, the Bible says, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft."

Whenever people get into rebellion they'll get into the occult. So the next demonic force was witchcraft. But in my personal subjective judgment, those are in the past. They're still very active but the number one strong man seeking to dominate the United States today is self-indulgence.

With regards to the spirit spouse, it makes me feel very gross and it has in the past made me sometimes feel Psalm 22:1 forsaken by God - no joke. But, also, fascinatingly, after making such complaints to God in my private praying, I have like a reflex action been encouraged through other people that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and will not leave or forsake me.

Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, **I will never leave you nor forsake you.** (ESV)

Deuteronomy 31:8 - **It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.** (ESV)

youtube.com: Petra: No Doubt There are times when you fell like you can't go on

There are times when you fell like giving in

And there are times when you feel like you can't try anymore

There are times of trouble in believing

This test of your faith will last

As long as it takes to pass

Till you have no more doubt you'll endure

And your faith will emerge true and pure

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)

God does give me encouragements from time to time though, and my confidence in God is not failing:

Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. (ESV)

But I am still required to live by faith, and so much of what I hope for is unseen and I don't have total assurance, but I have a conviction about it:

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (ESV)

I Corinthians 13:12 - For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. (ESV)

I have literally no idea why Father God waited such a long time in the first place to draw me to Jesus:

Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (ESV)

God draws us to Jesus who brings us to God:

John 6:44 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:18-19 - All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (ESV)

I want to hear from God clearly, but I feel like being delivered from being attacked by demons would be really good.

Psalms 22:1 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? (ESV)

Psalms 6:1-4 - O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments; according to The Sheminith. A Psalm of David. Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD—how long? Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love. (ESV)

I was in that happy place shortly after being born-again even though my theology wasn't great, but then God has put me through this trial.

I Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (ESV)

Acts 14:22 - strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (ESV)

I claim to be a fallibly obedient child of God - trusting in Jesus and responsive to the love of God, and I claim to love and follow the law of God in my mind, and I actually try very hard to not be conformed to sinful lusts - and I though I was quite successful in doing in advance of my trial, but it's just so difficult to live properly now because of such intense persecution in this world - physical and spiritual, inside and outside of church, so I'm complaining to God and saying it has been far too difficult:

Psalms 142:2 - I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him. (ESV)

I will still try aim to put that stuff to death and to be holy in all my conduct:

I Peter 1:14-19 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy. And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (ESV)

Sigh....

On the bright side, last week I did get a picture of John Piper on YouTube saying "**Jesus has given you clothes.**" That means that when I turn up in heaven I'll have 'clothes' so I can enter - the imputed righteousness of Christ.

But being brought into communion with God by the blood of Jesus we must not resist sanctification. We must humble ourselves in obedience to Christ Jesus.

Acts 10:34-35: So Peter opened his mouth and said: Truly I understand that **God shows no partiality**, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Galatians 2:6 - And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; **God shows no partiality**)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. (ESV)

Matthew 22:11-13 - But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

youtube.com: The Hidden Snare of Bitterness @time: 4 min 6 sec So when Paul says, "Put it on, this new nature, he means, 'Act it out.'" If you have been created anew after the likeness of God clothe yourselves with godly garments. Now what is clothing? Clothing is what people see. When you put clothing around yourself you give something for people to look at that's presentable. So when Paul says "clothe yourselves, put on your new nature," he means, "let that inner reality that God has created work itself out in visible actions and behaviors and attitudes. Become what you are within." If the hidden spring has been purified let the visible streams run clean. But of course if the spring is purified the streams will run clean. If the tree is good the fruit will be good. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth does speak. ... These choices are the obedience that confirm your calling and election and make it sure. ...

youtube.com: Keep Rejoicing

warning If we neglect to understand that the Christian life as it is lived out is a miracle, then all our pursuit of morality or holiness will become striving in our own strength... we will chalk it up to our merit...

Also, I recall that some time in 2022 I had a dream where someone asked me, "How did you get in here?" And I responded pointing to 2 blog articles I had written (2 April 2022 and 3 May 2022 and indicating that it was through being born-again, through baptism, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Revelation of John 3:4 - Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. (ESV)

But I have to keep seeking to be sanctified because Jesus is coming for me at some point. So I want to be ready for when that happens by being holy and loving:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

Both our faith and our love should be increasing:

II Thessalonians 1:3 - We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your **faith is growing** abundantly, and the **love of every one of you for one another is increasing.** (ESV)

Doing the will of God is still extremely important for **inheriting** the kingdom of God. The will of God includes exercising personal righteousness as a fruit of sanctification (holiness, loving your neighbour as yourself, and doing good):

I Corinthians 6:9-10 - Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers **will inherit the kingdom of God.** (ESV)

Hebrews 12:11 - For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (ESV)

Doing the will of God is important for **inheriting** the kingdom of God:

Matthew 25:23 - His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. (ESV)

We do need a lot of faith (faith, faithfulness, obedience) in God to **inherit** the Kingdom of God:

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and **heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love (25. agapaó) him?** (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23- But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification **and its end, eternal life.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.** (ESV)

Quote from CH Spurgeon "Peace is joy resting, and joy is peace dancing"

Sigh.... For the record, as of <2024-06-13 Thu>, it still feels as though I'm being hit by witchcraft.

youtube.com: SYMPTOMS OF WITCHCRAFT {FIGHT BACK}!!?? {@Justice7-} First things first, let me just say this video is to educate people on the things that are happening in the spiritual world. If you do not believe in the spiritual aspects of this life, if you are still deceived by this flesh, by the carnal things, the logic, the societal standards and norms that have been presented to all of us, this video is not for you. But if you are somebody who has experienced warfare and you have gone through anything I have or similar which is fighting off witchcraft then please stay tuned to the end of this video.

The spirit spouse stuff has continued. It's only been a problem since the end of 2022, and I think its objective is to make me feel disqualified, but I know it's just demons/witchcraft/defilement and I'm resisting it to my best ability, including in my thoughts (sometimes I have succumbed).

It's interesting with the spirit spouse stuff, as it affects me it is involuntary (like rape in my sleep), and it tries to make it so that sex is voluntary (think myself to sex):

- biblehub.com: Strong's Greek: 1596. {hekousíos} – voluntarily, willfully

We should be cleansing ourselves of every defilement of body, and **spirit** with faith, the Word of God and the Spirit of God:

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body (4561. sarx) and spirit (4151. pneuma), bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

God cleanses our hearts as we practice our faith in Him:

Acts 15:9 - and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

We walk in the light (God's light, truth) in trust, faith, obedience:

I Peter 1:22 - Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (ESV)

Asides from that, I'll continue endeavouring to abide by Jesus' commandments, and I have a good conscience. I'm also experiencing a lot of testing, and positive interactions, and some encouragements from God, and I'm feeling like studying the Gospel of Jesus using the Bible is changing my life for the better, and I feel really confident having a much better perspective.

Galatians 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Sermon youtube.com: Assurance for Battle

I know my family in Christ also experience the same kind of suffering / spiritual warfare:

I Peter 5:9 - Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (ESV)

I Peter 4:16-17 - Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (ESV)

Job 1:8-12 - And the LORD said to Satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? Then Satan answered the LORD and said, Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face. And the LORD said to Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand. So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. (ESV)

Psalms 57:1 - Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Elvis Presley - Help me {With Lyrics}

Well this morning <2024-06-23 Sun> I dreamed of rebuking evil spirits in Jesus' name and I remember even willing in my heart as I was sleeping to rebuke them in Jehovah's name too, and I believe it was the Holy Spirit fighting for me as I was sleeping, and woke up after that. But I feel so encouraged when the Holy Spirit fights for me in my sleep. Also, after waking up I felt noticeably freed from the spirit spouse stuff - very encouraging. I was woken up by evil spirits again after that a couple more times this morning from memory, but I just put on some praise and worship music.

It's now <2024-06-26 Wed> and a couple of days ago I heard a voice which asked, "What do you think of the Golden Rule." That prompted me to do a little study on the Golden Rule and the Royal Law.

When it comes to 'works' and 'law-keeping', I believe disciples of Jesus should know they have been forgiven by grace through faith and they should also practice their righteousness, but the "works" is not the "obedience". The works come out of obedience, out of being a "doer of the law". Christians should **both** submit to the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, having the imputed righteousness of Christ that we believe we have as we are walking with Christ and Christians should practice righteousness too (as Jesus said, "go and sin no more"), and Christians should seek to keep accountability primarily to God in regards to the law because He sees everything, and **secondarily** have good conscience with men, to love as Jesus loved, and give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's - and God owns our hearts - and we should be prepared to die for Jesus, and remain faithful to Jesus. When a person practices their righteousness, then they are "doers of the law" from the heart. A person who has accepted forgiveness for their sin by the atonement made in Jesus' blood should certainly endeavour after that to fulfill practically the Royal Law, that is to love one's neighbour as themself, even owing that to other people:

Romans 13:8 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

But I continue walking in the light, in trusting obedience to Jesus, and Jesus' blood continues to cleanse me from all sin:

I John 1:7-9 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

It is clear that following Jesus helps us to not sin, which means that the destructiveness of sin for us is still a reality if we are not following Jesus. We get on top of it by following Jesus and walking by His Spirit:

Galatians 5:14-16 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word (**G3056 logō**): You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (ESV)

Romans 8:14 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (ESV)

A person who is mature in Christ has faith in Christ, follows the teachings of Christ and the pattern of His life, and is spiritually minded, and thinks with Christ's wisdom, not worldly wisdom, and lives for the will of God:

Colossians 1:28 - Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (ESV)

The Golden Rule, I think explains that we should behave like a child of Father God who is by nature Good and gives good gifts to His children, and gifts that are truly good, far exceeding any amount of favour we might show our own children. As we behave like a child of Father God, believing the gospel of Jesus, and loving with Christ's love, we can really say our Father is God, as a child takes after their parents, and a child of Father God behaves like Jesus and follows Jesus. We try to follow Jesus, and imitate Christ's pattern, as Christ is **the Son of God**.

We should love others, as we would want to be loved by others. God gives common grace to all people, even the evil. We should love in this way, as our Father in Heaven:

Matthew 5:45 - so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (ESV)

I do not think the Golden Rule is saying that "God is humanity." Neither do I think the Golden Rule is saying that God treats us precisely how we treat others.

I think the Golden Rule is really telling us to be loving, and love our enemies, as we would want to be loved by our enemies - love people the way Father God loves us:

Matthew 7:9-12 - Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father** who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So **whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them**, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

We should be imitators of God's love:

Psalms 103:8 - The LORD is **merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.** (ESV)

Ephesians 5:1-2 - Therefore **be imitators of God, as beloved children.** And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (ESV)

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (ESV)

Love your enemies as well as your friends. Be like Your Heavenly Father. Be perfect. Love (25. agapaó) your enemies means "treasuring your enemies" and looks like not repaying evil for evil. It sometimes looks like refusing to do evil and instead doing good to those who do you harm, taking the initiative in overcoming evil with good:

Matthew 5:43-48 - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Proverbs 25:21-22 - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. (ESV)

I'm still getting slammed with these antichrist dreams at night up till today <2024-07-13 Sat>, but I'm going to stick with what Scripture says. These dreams and visions are very false with regards to what the Holy Bible says. I won't trust every spirit but only those which confess (G3670 homologeó) Jesus biblically (i.e. as having come from God, walked the earth in the flesh, died and raised from the dead and ascended to Father God and reigns on High). God has spoken quite a lot already through the Scripture so I'm going to be taught and corrected by the Word of God, and be sanctified by the Truth.

I think I'll keep these notes here documenting a tiny view of spiritual attack I have endured, until I am delivered and on the other side of it.

72.11 In my helpless state I cried out to God for help, and He made me born-again of the spirit

I was spiritually bankrupt and I knew I needed God's help.

Jeremiah 29:13-14 - You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:4-5 - But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— (ESV)

Thanks to Jesus' endurance, His spirit empowers us to live as He lived, and to be conformed to His image. God's strength does not guarantee that we will not suffer as a result of following Jesus. But God gives us the power at the time we need it to endure the suffering:

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.** (ESV)

72.11.1 I was spiritually blind

I Corinthians 2:14 - The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (ESV)

II Corinthians 4:3 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. (ESV)

72.11.2 Father God intervenes and draws us to Jesus

II Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

John 6:44 - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

72.11.3 My spiritual senses were enabled / eyes were opened

I was born-again of the Spirit.

John 3:3 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (ESV)

And I began learning to walk in Jesus' commandments, and repenting from sin. There was an incredible amount of resistance from other people to following Jesus' commandments.

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (ESV)

Likewise, there was also a lot of resistance, spiritually, to repenting from sin.

youtube.com: The Good Shepard | His sheep | Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel @time: 7 min 46 sec

72.11.4 I had to humble myself and repent

I had to acknowledge certain beliefs and behaviour in my life was not what God's will was for me, and turn away from the bad beliefs and behaviour, and I want to continue learning Christ:

Ephesians 4:20-21 - But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as **the truth is in Jesus,** (ESV)

Trust and obey:

II Timothy 3:12-17 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been **acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

72.11.5 I still need deliverance <2025-06-09 Mon>

Dear Heavenly Father and my Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit, Yahweh, Jehovah, Almighty God, Why am I still being put through tribulation? You are not a liar, LORD God. I believe what Your Word says, "Call every man a liar, but God true," and that Your Word also says that "Your Holy Spirit, the Helper, the Spirit of Truth will testify of Jesus". So many times I have unrighteously blamed You for things. I simply do not understand everything fully. In a way, Your Holy Spirit has already made testimony of Jesus through the Holy Scripture, but I have been absolutely hammered by demons lying to me. What I have wanted, longed for and asked for more times than I could count is a direct confession **to me** through Your Spirit, in my heart, without technology, without the 'material', without paper, that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world, in the flesh", because that is how I understand is the promise that John 15:26 speaks of. I want to hear this testimony from Holy Spirit to my heart, in my heart. I want to hear it because I feel like I've been put inside a furnace like Hades and want to know, know, know that I'm in good standing with You, like in Daniel 3:25. I want to know, know, know without a doubt that the Holy Spirit has spoken to me and testified of Jesus, and I also want to be cleaned up, cleaned of defilement of spirit and flesh like Peter says in 2 Cor 7:1. I have received and believe Your testimony through Your Holy Scripture, but I want testimony 'directly through Your Spirit apart from the material world'. Please, God, speak to me in this way, but Your will be done. I don't want to rush this testimony. But neither do I want to be in this world any longer. What rights do I have as a believer? Paul says he has a right to take a believing wife. Jesus says that sons of the resurrection do not marry, nor are given in marriage. Paul says it's good to be unmarried and wishes all were as he is. Jesus says, if I'm reading in Matthew 19:11 correctly, that some people can't accept the saying in Matthew 19:10 that it is "it is better to not marry [for marriage comes with the risk of adultery if there were to be a divorce]" and the reason they can't accept it is because of what Jesus says in Matt:19:11-12. This may be why Paul calls marriage a gift in I Cor 7:7. I don't want to actually be in this world anymore and I want to be totally sanctified in love and holiness and raptured out of here. At this point the entire ordeal has become so highly strung, spiritually (I think) that I couldn't proceed in faith to marry anyone unless I had unambiguous instruction from Jesus, as what is not done in faith is sin. At this point I have resolved to not marry. Please, God, rescue me from this situation which I do not want to be in and heal and sanctify everyone involved in Your Truth. I believe that You will rescue me. I'm standing on Your Word: **II Corinthians 1:10**. In Jesus Christ's name, I ask and pray, AMEN!!

I don't want any of this disgusting gnosticism spirit. I rebuke that spirit of gnosticism in Jesus Christ's name. God forgive me.

John 15:26 - "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

Galatians 4:6 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:7 - I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. (ESV)

This verbiage "take along" does sound like "lead about". So what Paul says he might be written more unambiguously as, "Are we not allowed to take around (bring) with us a wife who is a sister in Christ, as do the

other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?" If that's the way it was meant, then that still implicitly does carry with it the idea that they are allowed to have a wife. But the passage doesn't necessarily speak about merely "becoming married" (i.e. the right to 'become married') but does seem to entail that idea too because if someone has the right to bring along or spend time with their wife then that presupposes that a state of marriage is something someone has the right to be in:

I Corinthians 9:5 - Do we not have the right (G1849 *exousian*: authority [N-AFS]) to take along (G4013 *periagein*: to take about [V-PNA], to lead about with oneself) a believing (G79 *adelphēn*: a sister [N-AFS]. i.e. a sister in Christ) wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:1-13 - Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman. But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion. To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. (ESV)

Matthew 19:8-12 - He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. The disciples said to him, If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry. But he said to them, Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it. (ESV)

I Corinthians 7:29-31 - This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

Genesis 6:2 - that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

II Corinthians 1:10 - He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. (ESV)

72.11.6 We're persecuted for following Jesus. We're persecuted for repentance

John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. (ESV)

Galatians 4:29 - But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. (ESV)

Christian persecution is not for suffering as an evildoer:

I Peter 4:15 - But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. (ESV)

Being persecuted for righteousness-sake, for faithful obedience to Jesus is evidence of entering the Kingdom of God:

II Thessalonians 1:4-5 - Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— (ESV)

We're supposed to do good works of faith by Jesus' power so that Jesus' name is glorified - and those works done in Jesus' power are entirely given by grace to us:

II Thessalonians 1:11-12 - To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every **work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, *according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (ESV)

72.11.7 Believers will marvel. The saints will do good works which glorify Jesus, all done in God's grace

A limited analogy If I had \$10 and wanted to help a person who asked for money, I could choose to give them only \$5 and wait around for the next person who needed money, or I could give the \$10 to the person who asked and then suggest to them that they ought to help someone else instead of use it all themselves. In this way, God gifts us the ability to gift others.

I am increasingly of the opinion that there is a subtle difference between simply 'believer' and 'saint' who is also a believer. Believers are forgiven through Jesus' name. Saints both believe and keep God's commandments, carrying their cross. Saints are disciples of Jesus who have been sanctified by the Truth. Believing disciples of Jesus may become saints:

II Thessalonians 1:9-12 - They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be **marveled at among all who have believed**, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may **fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power**, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

73 Jesus Christ is truely God and truely human (vera homo, Vera Deus)

Jesus is the Word of God made flesh. Jesus' words are Spirit and Life. We must 'eat' Jesus' words, believe Him, believe in Him, keep His words:

John 6:58-63 - This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever. Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, This is a hard saying; who can listen to it? But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (ESV)

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (ESV)

Jesus Christ is the Word of God who became flesh - this is what I believe - not just God **in** the flesh but God who **became** flesh, then He was put to death on a tree (a cross) for our trespasses and Father God raised Him from the dead for our justification:

John 1:14 - And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

Romans 4:20-25 - No distrust (**apistia**) made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness. But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (ESV)

AMEN!!

I trust the ESV and NASB translations that say the word became flesh.

Also, I've been born of God, so I have Christ in me:

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

I have the Spirit of God in me:

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

We are to be conformed into Christ's image:

Romans 8:29 - For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (ESV)

74 Praising and thanking God in Heaven

Sermon youtube.com: Christ Has Purchased Global Praise

We should start now.

Revelation 7:9-12 - After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen. (ESV)

74.1 We should praise God even when it's tough times

Psalms 22:1-3 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David. O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned (3427. yashab. to sit, remain, dwell) on the praises of Israel. (ESV)

Praise youtube.com: Prophetic / Worship / Jerusalem / ISRAEL / Soaking Worship Music / {Magi G feat. Elihana Elia} /

Proverbs 30:4 - Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know! (ESV)

75 I don't want to think too hard about theology, but it is important - writing this was worthwhile in arriving at a sound understanding

By God's grace I've been set free from sin, and brought into a relationship with God, and have hope for the future now.

Ephesians 2:12-13 - remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 29:29 - The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 3:10-11 - I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (ESV)

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (ESV)

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

76 The close of the age

Sermon youtube.com: His Voice in Yours: How Christ Wins the World

Revelation of John 14:7 - And he said with a loud voice, **Fear God and give him glory**, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. (ESV)

Matthew 13:45-52 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things? They said to him, Yes. And he said to them, Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.

It's important to get to know God, and important to obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus, or face the punishment:

II Thessalonians 1:5-8 - This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (ESV)

God is not saving Lucifer/Satan/the devil or his demons/devils. Neither is God saving his angels. They're all going to Hell, the Lake of Fire, forever. ... Along with those who reject God and do not repent. Amen to that:

Revelation of John 20:7-10 - And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and **the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.** (ESV)

Revelation 22:12-17, 20-21 - Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star. The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let the one who hears say, Come. And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. (ESV)

I'm a total believer in the rapture. In fact, I believe that a person can be raptured by faith. I really wouldn't mind being raptured today <2024-07-18 Thu>. The world lost its luster for me, and that is a good thing actually:

Hebrews 11:5 - By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. (ESV)

Andrae Crouch - Take Me Back Take me back, dear Lord, where I first believed. I must confess, Lord, I've been blessed, But yet, my soul's not satisfied. Renew my faith, restore my joy, Lord.

Jesus is coming a second time to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him. AMEN!!:

Hebrews 9:27-28 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (ESV)

And Jesus' enemies will be made a footstool for His feet:

Hebrews 10:10-13 - And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. (ESV)

[youtube.com: The Book Of Revelation | Satan Being Chained | Bishop Mari @time: 8 min 25 sec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

The Lord's first coming was nothing but mercy. He came to heal, he came to deliver, he came to save, he came to redeem - all mercy. But in his second coming, the third name will apply: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords". And who will acknowledge this name? And who will bow before this Holy and mighty name? The entire world of the church. Everyone who rejects the Lord now, every everyone who denies the Lord now, everyone who opposes the Lord now, everyone who offends the Lord now will bow whether they like it or not on his second return, because he is the King of all Kings and he is the Lord of all Lords.

76.1 Living and the dead

There are those who are not really alive but are like the walking dead.

I Peter 4:4-5 - With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (ESV)

Romans 8:10-13 - But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Could we say that a person who believes in / trusts in Jesus may die? Yes, we can say that, but though they may die, yet they will live. So if believers die, they then they live:

John 11:25-27 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. **Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.** Do you believe this? She said to him, Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world. (ESV)

OK, so if a believer/truster in Jesus dies then they will live.

And if a person lives and they trust/believe in Jesus, they will never die:

Romans 6:8-11 - Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So **you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.** (ESV)

So we are born-again, and continue in faith in Jesus.

I think Jesus was suggesting to his disciple that to not follow Him (Jesus) is to live in a futile way. The path of life, however, involves following Him, and living for Him and His gospel, and that person will live:

Matthew 8:21-23 - Another of the disciples said to him, Lord, *let me first go and bury my father.* And Jesus said to him, **Follow me,** and leave the dead to bury their own dead. And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. (ESV)

Luke 9:59-62 - To another he said, Follow me. But he said, Lord, *let me first go and bury my father.* And Jesus said to him, Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, **go and proclaim the kingdom of God.** Yet another said, I will follow you, Lord, but *let me first say farewell to those at my home.* Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Those who follow Jesus will have the light of life:

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (ESV)

It is those people who will to live (though they die, they will live). Then they are truly alive - joined with Him - having died with Jesus now alive with Him. The one who is alive from the dead who continues to trust in Him will never die.

76.2 Confidence for the day of judgement

We have confidence as we are practicing righteousness and love the brothers:

I John 3:10-17 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.** For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. **We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers.** Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But **if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?** (ESV)

Psalms 119:160 - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (ESV)

We believe God and love as He commanded. We trust God. We trust Jesus. We may have our faults but our Master is our Lord Jesus and our justification is His blood as we are found in Him, as doers of His commandments - trustees, believers, doers, imitators of Him:

I John 4:1-21 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: **every spirit that confesses (G3670 homologeó, confesses, acknowledges, agrees) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,** and every spirit that does not confess (G3670 homologeó, confess, acknowledge, agree with) Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. **We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us.** By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And

we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.** So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.** (ESV)

76.2.1 Commendation from God

Proverbs 12:8 - A man is commended according to his good sense, but one of twisted mind is despised. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:1-2 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. (ESV)

II Corinthians 10:18 - For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. (ESV)

III John 1:11-12 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. (ESV)

I Corinthians 4:3-5 - But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. (ESV)

76.2.2 Condemnation from God

I Corinthians 11:32 - But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that **we may not be condemned along with the world.** (ESV)

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

We are delivered from this evil age:

Galatians 1:3-5 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age,** according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

We are saved from this crooked generation:

Acts 2:40 - And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, **Save yourselves from this crooked generation.** (ESV)

Journal <2025-08-09 Sat> I don't want to be here in this world. The AI stuff is diabolical. I think the AI stuff is probably God's judgement on the world. How much more difficult it will be to stop trusting in the ways of the world and to trust in God if people are pushed into letting AI think for them. Diabolical stuff. Get me out of here Lord Jesus Christ, please. I'm done with this world.

I'm looking forward to getting out of here youtube.com: ONCE AGAIN, ISRAEL HAS THE WORLD FREAKED OUT! WORLD LEADERS REACT! {@WatchmanRiver}

Psalms 53:1 - The fool says in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. (ESV)

Psalms 10:10-11 - The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might. He says in his heart, God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it. (ESV)

I think that to put one's trust in an AGI / ASI system instead of God and allowing such a thing to take the place of God in a person's heart is incredibly foolish. I think that the way in which it's being pushed onto society is extremely concerning. The righteous live by faith in God. The unrighteous would trust in what is false, such as AGI/ASI.

II Thessalonians 2:10-13 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

I think it would be very telling where a person's heart is by what they do when being confronted with a choice to horde, say, cryptocurrency or to be the good Samaritan to someone. Alternatively, who do they believe in and trust? Do they believe in and trust God, or do they believe in and trust AGI/ASI? Do they fear God? Or do they fear AGI/ASI? I have absolutely no fear of AGI/ASI. It's of the world. When people try to use AI to judge me / criticise me while I have been born-again and have a real relationship with God and I fear God and want to do what please Him, I just know that the AI stuff is detached from reality, propelled by greed and idolatry and I know I'm being persecuted for righteousness-sake. I don't want to be in this world. I have no love for it.

Luke 12:33-37 - Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning**, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will **dress himself for service** and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. (ESV)

76.3 Hades and Hell - eternal fire

Ephesians 4:8-10 - Therefore it says, When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men. (In saying, He ascended, what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended **far above all the heavens**, that he might fill all things.) (ESV)

76.3.1 Those who do not trust God's testimony of Jesus are condemned even now, and should repent and believe to not be condemned

I think John 5:24 reads that the one who is trusting the words spoken through Jesus, trusting God, trusting Jesus is holds/possesses eternal life and has passed/is passing/passes from death into life.

2064. erchomai to come, go

3327. metabain to pass over, withdraw, depart

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (KJV)

In trusting Jesus' words - or even His name (**onoma**) and He is the judge - we do not come into judgement, but change direction, and instead our destiny is life eternal. Jesus is the judge of that. We do not come into judgement:

John 5:21-24 - For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears (**191. akouó**) my word (**3056. logos**) and believes (**4100. pisteúo**) him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come (**2064. erchomai**) into judgment, but has passed (**3327. metabain**) from death to life. (ESV)

John 3:18 - Whoever believes (**G4100 pisteuōn**) in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name (**onoma**) of the only Son of God. (ESV)

76.3.2 Eternal life vs eternal punishment - Judgement at the close of the age

Matthew 25:43-46 - I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying, Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life. (ESV)

It's really important to get to know God and obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus:

II Thessalonians 1:5-10 - This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction**, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (ESV)

I John 4:6-12 - We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.** (ESV)

Matthew 25:41 - Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (ESV)

Jesus promised He would send the Helper, the Spirit of Truth to those who love Him and keep His commandments and the Spirit of Truth would bear witness about Him:

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

John 15:26-27 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (ESV)

We can expect to receive the Spirit of Truth. Infuriatingly, I am yet (as of <2025-06-16 Mon>) to year a confession from any spirit that Jesus is the Christ who has come (into the world, from God) in the flesh. I've heard the voices of demons mocking me while I am enduring hardship. There's also been a lot of "nice" pictures and dreams I may receive, but is temptation. For example, a picture of marriage. The devil tempts. God tests. But also we test. We have to test the spirits to see if they come from God. I have heard from Christians excuses to not test the spirits. One of them is that God speaks in different ways. But it's one of Jesus' promises to **those who keep His commandments** that He will send the Spirit of Truth to make testimony of Himself. If we nullify this saying then expect to be led astray by demons:

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

And I think that repentance from sin is important for this:

John 8:31-36 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

If Jesus is faithful, (I'm holding faith in his promises, I am holding faith that He is faithful, otherwise I would have given up asking Him to deliver on His promise), then He will send the Spirit of Truth to make testimony of Him, as we are holding fast to the confession of our hope. We should meet together and encourage one another as we see the Day drawing near. Because, I think this passage is saying that once that day has arrived and we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins. I'm quite sure, we should be serving Jesus at this point. I do not think this passage is saying that it is a commandment of Christ to "go to church every Sunday". But I do believe that we should not let the worries of the world deter us from gathering together with other believers. If someone can't trust God enough with their finances to put down their work on a Sunday, for example, then I think that is problematic:

Hebrews 10:23-29 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **he who promised is faithful**. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to **meet together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more **as you see the Day drawing near**. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? (ESV)

Matthew 6:24-34 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single

hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (ESV)

Journal <2025-06-15 Sun> I'm a bit angry at the Lord because I've been harassed and oppressed by demons for about 3 years almost daily as I've been holding my faith in Jesus, and expecting to hear this testimony which Jesus has promised. What master would promise peace and rest to those who trust and obey Him and promise the Spirit of Truth to come and make testimony of Himself while allowing those who believe Him and follow Him to be terrorised and oppressed by demons so much for such a long time? To this very day, I've been getting harassed by demons in my sleep and during the day. Because in the furnace / in the tribulation you want to know at least that Jesus has been faithful to His promises and there's something you've been given that the world and all the demons can't steal - the testimony from the Holy Spirit. If, for example, I had heard this testimony which the Apostle John speaks of, then I'd be able to hold onto that while enduring hardship, but **I have heard no such thing**. So I think my complaint to God is very fair.

We can expect to receive the Spirit of Truth. Infuriatingly, I am yet (as of <2025-06-16 Mon>) to year a confession from any spirit that Jesus is the Christ who has come (into the world, from God) in the flesh. I've heard the voices of demons mocking me while I am enduring hardship. There's also been a lot of "nice" pictures and dreams I may receive, but is temptation. For example, a picture of marriage. The devil tempts. God tests. But also we test. We have to test the spirits to see if they come from God. I have heard from Christians excuses to not test the spirits. One of them is that God speaks in different ways. But it's one of Jesus' promises to **those who keep His commandments** that He will send the Spirit of Truth to make testimony of Himself. If we nullify this saying then expect to be led astray by demons:

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

John 10:27 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (ESV)

It's completely fine to commit your way to the LORD, and trust in Him and expect Him to act. He sees our hearts, and He sees our faith. And He can speak in this very specific way through dreams and visions, with the Holy Spirit. I trust that He will speak this way to me:

Psalms 37:5-7 - Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! (ESV)

I'm not an idolator, and I'm very much repentant from other types of sin. I pray that God delivers me and that He will speak to me while providing the testimony that Jesus Christ has come from God into the world in the flesh so that I know with certainty that it's from Him. God help me:

Revelation of John 9:20-21 - The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (ESV)

Revelation of John 18:2 - And he called out with a mighty voice, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. (ESV)

76.3.3 Sheol / Hades - this is where Jesus went

Read blueletterbible.org: What Is Hades?

Read youthpastortheologian.com: What does the Apostles' Creed mean by "He descended to the dead"? - Youth Pastor Theologian

Proverbs 15:24 - The path of life leads upward for the prudent, that he may turn away from Sheol beneath. (ESV)

Matthew 12:40 - For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (ESV)

Proverbs 2:16-19 - So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. (ESV)

John 5:25 - Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (ESV)

I Peter 4:6 - For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. (ESV)

7585. sheol Definition: underworld (place to which people descend at death).

86. hadés Definition: Hades, the abode of departed spirits. Usage: Hades, the unseen world.

Psalms 9:17 - The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God. (ESV)

While Sheol/Hades includes a place of torment regarded to be hell, that place is not the Lake of Fire, but it's still not a nice place:

Proverbs 23:14 - If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol. (ESV)

Proverbs 23:14 - Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from *hell*. (KJV)

But Sheol will be thrown into hell after those in Sheol are judged.

Acts 2:27-28 - For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence. (ESV)

The bad part of Sheol/Hades though is still a place of torment with fire. Maybe Jesus visited this place - I suppose He did:

Revelation of John 1:17-18 - When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. (ESV)

KJV considers this place to be hell too - but it's not the Lake of Fire:

Luke 16:27-28 - And he said, Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment. (ESV)

Death and Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire, which is Hell:

Revelation of John 20:13-14 - And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades (86. hadés) gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (ESV)

Jesus went to Hades, the bad part:

I Peter 3:18-20 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and **proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey**, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. (ESV)

And Jesus went to the Bosom of Abraham:

Luke 23:43 - And he said to him, Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. (ESV)

Read [gotquestions.org did-Jesus-go-to-hell.html](http://gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-go-to-hell.html): Did Jesus go to hell between His death and resurrection? | GotQuestions.org

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word used to describe the realm of the dead is sheol. It simply means "the place of the dead" or "the place of departed souls/spirits." The New Testament Greek equivalent of sheol is hades, which also refers to "the place of the dead." The New Testament indicates that sheol/hades is a temporary place, where souls are kept as they await the final resurrection and judgment. Revelation 20:11-15 makes a clear distinction between hades and the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the permanent and final place of judgment for the lost. Hades, then, is a temporary place. Many people refer to both hades and the lake of fire as "hell," and this causes confusion.

If Jesus visited the place of torment in Luke 16:28 (the bad part of Sheol/Hades), it was just temporarily. My current belief is that He would have visited all of the place of the dead (both sides of the chasm).

Jesus went to Hades and I haven't been convinced that Jesus did not visit the bad part of Hades. Jesus experienced Death and Jesus experienced Hades.

Revelation of John 1:18 - and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. (ESV)

Sheol/hades is a realm with two divisions - a place of **blessing** and a place of **judgment** (Matthew 11:23; Matthew 16:18; Luke 10:15; Luke 16:23; Acts 2:27-31). The abodes of the saved and the lost are both generally called "hades" in the Bible. The abode of those who die while they have done good in this life is also called "**Abraham's bosom**" (KJV) or "Abraham's side" (NIV) in Luke 16:22 and "paradise" in Luke 23:43.

The abodes of the ones who have lived righteously in God's sight and the lost are separated by a "**great chasm**" (Luke 16:26).

When Jesus died, He went to the blessed side of sheol, or paradise.

(Some believe, based on a particular interpretation of Ephesians 4:8-10, that Jesus took believers with Him from sheol to another place of bliss that we now call heaven.

More likely, Ephesians 4 refers to the ascension of Christ.) **All the unbelieving dead go to the cursed side of hades to await the final judgment. All the believing dead go to the blessed side of hades to await the resurrection.**

Some of the confusion has arisen from such passages as Psalm 16:10-11 as translated in the King James Version: "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. . . . Thou wilt show me the path of life." "Hell" is not a correct translation in this verse. A correct reading would be "the grave" or "sheol." Jesus said to the thief beside Him, "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)

76.3.4 The dead hearing the gospel - was it only a one time thing?

Though not raised, the dead may hear the voice of the son of God, the gospel, and live in the spirit the way God does.

I Corinthians 15:29 - Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? (ESV)

John 5:25 - Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (ESV)

I Peter 4:6 - For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God. (NASB)

If a person rejects Jesus in this life and dies, then from what Jesus has said here, they won't repent:

Luke 16:30-31 - And he said, No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent. He said to him, **If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.** (ESV)

I think it's important to trust Jesus in this life because no guarantees with hearing the gospel in the place of the dead. Who knows, though, right? Because perhaps a believer who dies in Christ could preach the gospel to Hades and bounce back up as Jesus did. But even then, I think Jesus makes it plain that if a person rejects the Truth before they die then they won't accept in even in the place of the dead.

John 5:25 - Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (ESV)

I Peter 4:6 - For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. (ESV)

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Proclaiming the gospel in the place of the dead *might* have only been a one-time thing:

I Peter 3:18-22 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which **he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey**, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (ESV)

John 3:36 - Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn* - *is believing (verb)*) in the Son **has** eternal life; whoever does not obey (544. *apeitheō*) the Son shall not **see** life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (ESV)

John 5:28-29 - Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)

76.3.5 Tartaroó

God cast rebellious angels into this place. It sounds like Hades but maybe worse:

II Peter 2:4 - For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (5020. tartaroó) and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; (ESV)

God sent/sends rebellious angels into this place called Tartaroó. Satan and his angels and demons will ultimately end up in the eternal fire.

Jude 1:6-7 - And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day — just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. (ESV)

76.3.6 Hell, lake of fire, the second death

Jesus didn't go to the Lake of Fire, as far as I understand. Jesus went to the place of the dead, both Abraham's Bosom and the bad part of Sheol/Hades colloquially known as hell. The Lake of Fire is the final Hell, and is a Christless eternity with no hope of salvation.

Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy (622. apollumi) both soul and body in hell. (ESV)

622. apollumi Definition: to destroy, destroy utterly Usage: (a) I kill, destroy, (b) I lose, mid: I am perishing (the resultant death being viewed as certain). 622 apólymi (from 575 /apó, "away from," which intensifies ollymi, "to destroy") – properly, fully destroy, cutting off entirely *(note the force of the prefix, 575 /apó). **622 /apólymi** *(“violently/completely perish”) implies permanent (absolute) destruction, i.e. to cancel out (remove); “to die, with the implication of ruin and destruction” (L & N, 1, 23.106); cause to be lost (utterly perish) by experiencing a miserable end.

The Lake of Fire is where unrepentant sinners who reject God (and reject Jesus) go - i.e. those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus - they do not want to be saved from their sin. It's also where Satan and his angels and demons go:

Matthew 13:49-50 - So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in **the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.** (ESV)

Mark 9:42-44 - Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. (ESV)

Mark 9:45-46 - If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell, [where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.] (NASB)

Matthew 25:41 - Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (ESV)

Revelation of John 19:20 - And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. (ESV)

Matthew 13:42 - and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

The lake of fire is for people who not only are unrepentant sinners but also reject Christ (they do not want to be saved).

What is the difference between Sheol, Hades, Hell, the lake of fire, Paradise, and Abraham's bosom?

The lake of fire, mentioned only in Revelation 19:20 and Revelation 20:10, Revelation 14-15, is the final hell, the place of eternal punishment for all unrepentant rebels, both angelic and human (Matthew 25:41). It is described as a place of burning sulfur, and those in it experience eternal, unspeakable agony of an unrelenting nature (Luke 16:24; Mark 9:45-46). Those who have rejected Christ and are in the temporary abode of the dead in hades/sheol have the lake of fire as their final destination.

76.3.7 The ones who have not heard the gospel are judged by God very fairly

Romans 2:13-16 - For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, **while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.** (ESV)

Romans 2:26-29 - So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. (ESV)

Isaiah 65:1 - I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, Here am I, here am I, to a nation that was not called by my name. (ESV)

As God judges, unrighteous people remain under punishment until they are judged and until the righteous are freed from trial:

II Peter 2:5-10 - if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, (ESV)

Ecclesiastes 2:17 - So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind. (ESV)

76.3.8 The outcome of just judgement for all

Job 12:10 - In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. (ESV)

I Timothy 4:7-10 - Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness**; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For **to this end we toil and strive**, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (ESV)

Revelation of John 11:18 - The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth. (ESV)

Glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

Luke 16:22-25 - The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame. But Abraham said, Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. (ESV)

Romans 2:6-11 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

God judges:

Revelation of John 14:7 - And he said with a loud voice, Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. (ESV)

The Father judges no one but God judges through Jesus, the Son, who He, the Father, has sent. The Father is God. The Son is God:

John 5:22-23 - The Father judges no one, but has **given all judgment to the Son**, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. (ESV)

Matthew 16:27 - For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will **repay each person according to what he has done**. (ESV)

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega. Jesus is God:

Revelation of John 22:12-13 - Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to **repay everyone for what he has done**. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (ESV)

John 5:28-29 - Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)

Jesus has literally taught people that if we love our enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return we will be rewarded and be sons of the Most High. This shows that obedience to Jesus is just part of having faith in Jesus:

Luke 6:35-36 - But love your enemies, and do good, and **lend, expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (ESV)

It's also written that we must repent from sin that God may be a Father to us:

II Corinthians 6:16-18 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore **go out from their midst, and be separate from them**, says the Lord, **and touch no unclean thing**; then **I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.** (ESV)

Repent from sin, turn away from doing evil, and trust in Jesus Christ and do good:

Psalms 37:23-29 - The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand. I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing. Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. (ESV)

Take refuge **in** Him:

Psalms 37:38-40 - But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off. The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because **they take refuge in him.** (ESV)

The prophets, saints, and servants of Jesus will be rewarded:

Revelation of John 11:18 - The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth. (ESV)

76.3.9 The unrepentant sinners including believers who do not want to repent from sin

Jesus is our Lord and Master, not sin. Being under grace means we have been forgiven and now present ourselves as slaves of Righteousness, obeying Jesus:

Romans 6:9-14 - Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (KJV)

We should be obedient slaves of Righteousness (slaves of Jesus). If you're not enslaved to Christ you're enslaved to something else - either yourself or to sin or to the world or to satan. I realise that word 'enslaved' carries connotations of slavery but it's slavery to Jesus, and freedom from slavery to sin, slavery from walking in disobedience to God, to instead serve God through Jesus. No servant is greater than their master, but at least the servant of Jesus has Jesus as their master.

Father God is very pleased with our Lord Jesus. Now we serve Jesus and come under His banner. Even though we are under grace, there is still a very strong warning to us that we should not put Christ to the test in obeying sin:

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 - Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:8-11 - We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (ESV)

If we continue on serving, trusting, obeying sin, we will die. But if we continue serving, trusting, obeying Jesus we will be sanctified and have eternal life: Faith is commanded so is inseparable from obedience. It's the real gospel, the one that calls people to obedience by word and deed, obedience to Jesus. Obedience which leads to righteousness. Faith is commanded of us:

Romans 6:15-23 - What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The **end of those things is death**. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Often believers have times when we stumble and speak and act in the flesh, as we are being sanctified, but we confess (G3670 homologeó) sin and repent:

Romans 8:1-7 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh (G4561 sarx) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (ESV)

Romans 7:14-25 - For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I

do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

Homologeó means to come into agreement with the fact. So we need to come into agreement with the truth that we have sinned and that such things are sinful:

I John 1:6-10 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (G3670 homologeó) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (ESV)

Example with Simon. Jesus prayed that Simon's faith would not fail, despite knowing Simon would act in the flesh and deny Him, but Jesus asked Simon to strengthen His brothers when he 'turned' (came to his senses, began walking in the spirit/light/truth) again:

Luke 22:31-32 - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. (ESV)

We should take a page from Nebuchadnezzar, and obey Jesus to strengthen our brothers after we repent:

Daniel 4:34-37 - At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, What have you done? At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. (ESV)

Sinning believers will still experience tribulation. Believers who are unrepentant from sin are probably not true trustees of Jesus or are rebellious even in face of hearing the gospel and maybe even experience the literal place Hades (the bad part). I could be wrong, but I don't want to test God. It's a bad idea to put Christ to the test. Jesus is the Judge.

Matthew 16:15-19 - He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell (G86 hadés) shall not prevail against it.** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (ESV)

Luke 4:8 - And Jesus answered him, It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:8-11 - We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 - Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. (ESV)

This makes it quite clear that we must be law-abiding:

Matthew 13:38-42 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

If we continue on serving, trusting, obeying sin, we will die. But if we continue serving, trusting, obeying Jesus we will be sanctified and have eternal life: Faith is commanded so is inseparable from obedience. It's the real gospel, the one that calls people to obedience by word and deed, obedience to Jesus. Obedience which leads to righteousness. Faith is commanded of us:

Romans 6:15-23 - What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness**? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The **end of those things is death**. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Those who do not repent from sin (stop serving sin), but instead embrace evil will experience tribulation.

Polycarp 2:1 Wherefore gird up your loins and serve God in fear and truth, forsaking the vain and empty talking and the error of the many, for that ye have believed on Him that raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and gave unto him glory and a throne on His right hand; unto whom all things were made subject that are in heaven and that are on the earth; to whom every creature that hath breath doeth service; who cometh as judge of quick and dead; **whose blood God will require of them that are disobedient unto Him**.

All sin servers (rather than those who serve Christ - even 'believers' who don't serve Jesus) will experience tribulation and distress on earth if they do not turn to Jesus to serve Christ and simultaneously turn away from serving sin.

If a person is a remorseless, unrepentant "sin server", it's better for them that their body destroyed so their soul is saved:

I Corinthians 5:4-5 - When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

I don't say sinner here anymore because even those who trust Jesus make mistakes, and we're always reliant on the mercy of God.

G1067. geenna Hell is the place of the future punishment called "Gehenna" or "Gehenna of fire". This was originally the valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned; a fit symbol of the wicked and their future destruction.

Matthew 5:29-30 - If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell (G1067. geenna). And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (ESV)

Me speculating Hades as it's used in this way could possibly look appearance-wise the same, but perhaps God re-organises cities and their inhabitants (me speculating), say forcing unrepentant sinners to other cities. I still believe it's also literal place.

Luke 10:15 - And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. (ESV)

God does relocate people after all, but that's probably something different:

- youtube.com: These Biblical Prophecies About Israel Have Yet To Be Fulfilled | Derek Prince {@DerekPrince-WithSubtitles} @time: 15 min 1 sec

Ezekiel 36:16-29 - The word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds. Their ways before me were like the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity. So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed in the land, for the idols with which they had defiled it. **I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries. In accordance with their ways and their deeds I judged them.** But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, These are the people of the LORD, and yet they had to go out of his land. But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. (ESV)

Leviticus 18:24-25 - Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. (ESV)

7585. sheol Definition: underworld (place to which people descend at death).

86. hadés Definition: Hades, the abode of departed spirits. Usage: Hades, the unseen world.

Psalms 9:17 - The wicked shall return to Sheol, **all the nations that forget God.** (ESV)

Any person who is experiencing tribulation/torment for wrongdoing would not be experiencing the Kingdom of God on earth, but they may still go to heaven at the final judgment if they end up putting their trust in Jesus Christ:

Romans 2:6-11 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be **tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,** but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

I Corinthians 10:8-13 - **We must not indulge in sexual immorality** as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test**, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now **these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction**, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

II Peter 2:2-11 - And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their **condemnation** from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if **God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell** and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. (ESV)

This makes it quite clear that we must be law-abiding:

Matthew 13:38-42 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

The bad part of Sheol/Hades is for those who do evil deeds, possibly including believers who do not repent/turn away from sin to start serving Jesus:

Luke 16:22-31 - The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame. But Abraham

said, Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us. And he said, Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment. But Abraham said, They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them. And he said, No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent. He said to him, **If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.** (ESV)

youtube.com: Judgment Is Coming For Those Who Distort Scripture @time: 2 min 5 sec God is love.

Everything he does is out of love. So you have to look at judgment in the light of love, and you have to look at a person's long-term, not short-term, benefit. Because God's always interested in the eternal. He's put eternity in our hearts, and when we look at the length of this life, Arden, it is a blip, a blip on the screen, compared to eternity. And so God is always speaking to us in regard to our eternal benefit, not our temporary.

I John 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. (ESV)

Unrighteous people remain locked up here until judgement:

II Peter 2:5-10 - if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to **keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.** Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, (ESV)

Jude 1:4-21 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, The Lord rebuke you. But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, **looking after themselves;** waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, **for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.** It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and **to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners**

have spoken against him. These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions. It is these who cause divisions, **worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.** But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

If a person rejects Jesus in this life and dies, then from what Jesus has said here, they wont repent:

Luke 16:30-31 - And he said, No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent. He said to him, **If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.** (ESV)

But the ones who hear the voice of God and trust in Jesus will certainly be spared from the Lake of Fire at the judgement.

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)

76.3.10 The believers who have embraced repentance from sin and sanctification while on earth

Believers who have obeyed the gospel and are living to serve Christ will enter the Kingdom of God while on Earth and inherit eternal life and not experience the place of torment in Hades, but go straight to heaven.

Romans 2:6-11 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be **tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek**, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

76.3.11 Those who are not repentant from sin, and who do not trust Jesus (do not want to be saved) will go to the second death, the Lake of Fire

Luke 5:31-32 - And Jesus answered them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. (ESV)

Paul here is repentant from the heart (like Paul we must be repentant, we have to receive the love of the truth). He wants to do good (he has an obedient heart, a heart that loves God and loves Jesus Christ and loves what God has done, and loves God's Law) but indwelling sin is an issue and he's doing battle against sin:

Romans 7:19-20 - For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (ESV)

Those who do not ultimately repent from serving/practicing sin who also distrust Jesus (they do not want to do the will of God) will go to the lake of fire:

Revelation of John 21:5-8 - And he who was seated on the throne said, Behold, I am making all things new. Also he said, Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true. And he said to me, It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (ESV)

Revelation of John 20:14-15 - Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (ESV)

Revelation of John 20:9-10 - And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (ESV)

Revelation of John 14:11 - And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name. (ESV)

77 Jesus Christ is Lord! :)

The Only True God is the God and Father of Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ who He Sent.

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (ESV)

We serve the Most High God, Jehovah and Jesus Christ who He has sent:

I Corinthians 8:5-7 - For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many gods and many lords — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 10:17 - For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (ESV)

What I believe is that everything that is in the 'made' category has been created through Jesus (Yeshua) by Jehovah (Yahweh) God. Jesus Christ was not made. He was there with Jehovah in the beginning. He is the Word of God. Jesus is God the Son:

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. (ESV)

Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (ESV)

Jude 1:25 - to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (ESV)

John 3:33-34 - Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that **God is true.** For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. (ESV)

Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

I Chronicles 29:11 - Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. (ESV)

Revelation of John 19:1 - After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, (ESV)

I Timothy 6:15-16 - which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (ESV)

Revelation of John 17:14 - They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful. (ESV)

I Timothy 1:17 - To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus Christ (God the Son) currently has all authority in heaven and earth:

Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (ESV)

Fellow heirs with Christ are still in subjection to Christ. Fellow heirs with Christ have Christ as their King and Lord and Saviour and God and Jehovah as their God.

Christ is reigning until all things are subjected to Him. We must come under the Lordship of Christ Jesus. I consider any so-called god which is in rebellion to Christ to be a demon:

I Corinthians 15:25-28 - For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For God has put all things in subjection under his feet. But when it says, all things are put in subjection, it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. **When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.** (ESV)

Daniel 7:13-14 - I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that **all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him;** his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (ESV)

Jesus Christ has total dominion:

I Peter 4:11 - whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

Acts 2:36 - Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord (G2962 kurios) and Christ (G5547 Christos), this Jesus whom you crucified. (ESV)

1 kurios: Lord, master, owner

2 Original Word:

3 Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

4 Transliteration: kurios

5 Pronunciation: koo'-ree-os

6 Phonetic Spelling: (koo'-ree-os)

7 Definition: Lord, master, owner

8 Meaning: lord, master, sir; the Lord.

- 1 Christos: Christ, Anointed One, Messiah
- 2 Original Word: Χριστός
- 3 Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine
- 4 Transliteration: Christos
- 5 Pronunciation: khris-TOS
- 6 Phonetic Spelling: (khrihs-tos')
- 7 Definition: Christ, Anointed One, Messiah
- 8 Meaning: Anointed One; the Messiah, the Christ.

77.1 Inheriting the Kingdom: The Bible says the ones who are co-heirs with Christ are the ones who suffer with Him

So let's imagine Peter just looking at Jesus on the sea and by faith obeying Jesus to come to him, but Peter not even being aware that he is standing on water because he's so fixated on Jesus. That's how it should be with us where we "do not let our left hand know what our right hand is doing", where we don't focus on the visible results, but rather we focus on by faith obeying Jesus. Just by faith obey Jesus and focus on Jesus. Come to Jesus. As soon as Peter took his eyes off Jesus and onto the wind (maybe focusing on the results, such as, if he is floating, rather than on Jesus), rather than by faith obeying Jesus, he started sinking:

Matthew 14:28-29 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. (ESV)

To inherit the Kingdom, we must be sanctified, and that sanctification involves exercising Christ's love. The righteous here are shown to be "doers" of the law in the heart and that they don't recall when they "[physically] saw Jesus hungry and fed him, thirsty and give him drink", but Jesus says they did, so they must have. This shows that they were not justifying themselves, but rather that God noticed that they were doers of his will and He commended them. They must have simply been led by the Spirit, practicing their righteousness, loving the Truth, (perhaps giving alms out of obeying Jesus by faith), and they served Jesus perhaps without knowing it, but God noticed. This person innocently asks, "When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?" They would've been doing Christ's commandments, though, by faith obeying from the heart. And so it's not the exterior success which a person might see themselves, but God sees the heart and God also sees the outcome of the faithful obedience and the impact it has on others. The truly obedient person (God sees the heart and sees everything) might even not be sure of when they did these specific things for Jesus. But God sees.

Just be obeying Jesus by faith sincerely from the heart and walk by faith and not sight, not focusing on the visible results, but rather seeking to please God who seeks your heart and intentions:

Matthew 25:33-37 - And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? (ESV)

Hebrews 13:2 - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (ESV)

Matthew 25:40-43 - And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. (ESV)

Matthew 6:1-4 - Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the

needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)

It's persecution for righteousness' sake:

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** (ESV)

I Peter 4:12-19 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those **who do not obey the gospel of God?** And **If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.** (ESV)

John 15:20 - Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

When we talk about 'merit' or 'credit', we were enabled to even be able to have merit in suffering for righteousness sake because Jesus bore our sins on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 'Live to righteousness' means walking in the light, walking in love and truth, practicing works that please God, making spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 13:1-8 says that without love (love that rejoices with the truth) we gain nothing. God loved us first and has chosen us to be a holy people for His possession, and we can now make spiritual sacrifices which God finds acceptable through Jesus Christ our Lord who we are holding faith in and who has loved us first, laying down His life for us first:

I Peter 2:15-25 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. **For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.** By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (ESV)

I Peter 2:4-5 - As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer **spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** (ESV)

Jesus is not ashamed to call brothers [and sisters] those who are cleaned up and sanctified through obedience to Jesus' gospel:

Hebrews 2:11 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (ESV)

John 8:47 - Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:2 - To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: (ESV)

77.2 The Bible does not say we are kings - it says we are royalty - a royal priesthood for His possession

Revelation of John 1:5 - and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—(NASB)

Revelation of John 1:5 (Interlinear) - and from Jesus Christ the witness - faithful the firstborn of the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth To the [One] loving us and releasing us from the sins of us through the blood of Him (Interlinear - biblehub.com)

1 2532 575 2424 5547 3588 3144
2 kai apo Iēsou Christou ho martyς
3 X ,
4 and from Jesus Christ the witness
5 Conj Prep N-GMS N-GMS Art-NMS N-NMS
6
7 3588 4103 3588 4416 3588 3498
8 ho pistos ho prōtotokos tōn nekrōn
9 ,
10 - faithful the firstborn of the dead
11 Art-NMS Adj-NMS Art-NMS Adj-NMS Art-GMP Adj-GMP
12
13 2532 3588 758 3588 935 3588
14 kai ho archōn tōn basileōn tēs
15
16 and the ruler of the kings of the
17 Conj Art-NMS N-NMS Art-GMP N-GMP Art-GFS
18
19 1093 3588 25 1473 2532
20 gēs Tō agapōnti hēmas kai
21 . T
22 earth To the [One] loving us and
23 N-GFS Art-DMS V-PPA-DMS PPro-A1P Conj
24
25 3089 1473 1537 3588 266
26 lysanti hēmas ek tōn hamartiōn
27
28 releasing us from the sins
29 V-APA-DMS PPro-A1P Prep Art-GFP N-GFP
30

31 1473 1722 3588 129 846
 32 hēmōn en tō haimati autou
 33 -
 34 of us through the blood of Him
 35 PPro-G1P Prep Art-DNS N-DNS PPro-GM3S

I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (ESV)

I Peter 2:9 (Interlinear) - You however [are] a race chosen a royal priesthood a nation holy a people for [His] possession so that the excellencies you may proclaim of the [One] out of darkness you having called to the marvelous of Him light (Interlinear - biblehub.com)

1 4771 1161 1085 1588 934
 2 Hymeis de genos eklektōn basileion
 3 ,
 4 You however [are] a race chosen a royal
 5 PPro-N2P Conj N-NNS Adj-NNS Adj-NNS
 6
 7 2406 1484 40 2992 1519
 8 hierateuma ethnōs hagion laos eis
 9 , ,
 10 priesthood a nation holy a people for [His]
 11 N-NNS N-NNS Adj-NNS N-NMS Prep
 12
 13 4047 3704 3588 703
 14 peripoiēsin hopōs tas aretas
 15 ,
 16 possession so that the excellencies
 17 N-AFS Conj Art-AFP N-AFP
 18
 19 1804 3588 1537 4655
 20 exangeilēte tou ek skotous
 21
 22 you may proclaim of the [One] out of darkness
 23 V-ASA-2P Art-GMS Prep N-GNS
 24
 25 4771 2564 1519 3588 2298
 26 hymas kalesantos eis to thaumaston
 27 ,
 28 you having called to the marvelous
 29 PPro-A2P V-APA-GMS Prep Art-ANS Adj-ANS
 30
 31 846 5457
 32 autou phōs
 33 ,
 34 of Him light
 35 PPro-GM3S N-ANS

youtube.com: Pope Leo XIV {@EWTNcatholictv} A bishop is not supposed to be a little prince sitting in his kingdom, but rather called authentically to be humble, to be close to the people he serves, to walk with them, to suffer with them, and to look for ways that he can better live the gospel message in the midst of his people.

Being a saint (trusting, faithful, obedient Christians who endure while keeping the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus):

Revelation of John 14:12 - Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Quote by Charles Spurgeon All are "saints" whom God has called by His grace **and sanctified** by His Spirit;

Jesus is not ashamed to call brothers [and sisters] those who are cleaned up and sanctified through obedience to Jesus' gospel:

Hebrews 2:11 - For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, (ESV)

John 8:47 - Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:2 - To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: (ESV)

There is a promise for the saints who conquer and keep Jesus' teachings to the end - authority over the nations:

Revelation of John 2:25-29 - Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:12 - **if we endure, we will also reign with him**; if we deny him, he also will deny us; (ESV)

Conquerors should not let sin reign in their mortal bodies:

Romans 7:11-14 - So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (ESV)

Revelation of John 3:18-21 - I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. **Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. **The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.** (ESV)

78 AMEN!!

Sermon youtube.com: There's Only One Acceptable Motive To Serve God

The motivation for everything must be to glorify God.

78.1 Do the will of the Father - obey Jesus. It's not just the red letters either. We must keep God's commandments. AMEN!!

There's a lot in the Bible to explain what is the revealed will of God:

Read videobible.com: 105 Scripture on God's Will - Video Bible

Watch youtube.com: The most terrifying passage in the Bible | Matthew 7:21-23

Luke 8:21 - But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it." (ESV)

Matthew 12:48-50 - But he replied to the man who told him, Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. (ESV)

Paul agrees:

Philippians 4:9 - What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — **practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.** (ESV)

Walk as an imitator of Christ:

Philippians 3:17-18 - Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. (ESV)

I Corinthians 11:1 - Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (ESV)

Do not be an enemy of the cross of Christ, submit to the righteousness of God - we needed Jehovah God, Father of Jesus Christ, to pay for our sin - and we must imitate Christ, passing forward Christ's love and forgiving as we have been forgiven, and repenting from sin:

Hebrews 13:7 - Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. (ESV)

III John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. (ESV)

John 3:19 - This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. (ESV)

It's obedience which leads to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith:

Romans 6:16 - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience, which leads to righteousness?** (ESV)

Romans 4:12-13 - and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

78.1.1 Obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus

II Thessalonians 1:4-8 - Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering — since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on **those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** (ESV)

78.1.2 A heart of belief and obedience is the start of faith

John 7:17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (ESV)

Believing Father God Jehovah, loving Him, obeying His commandments, loving and obeying Jesus Christ His son, all must be true together, even to have a sound definition of what love is:

I John 5:1-3 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when **we love God and obey his commandments.** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

I John 3:24 - **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

The fear of God helps us to obey Him. God please forgive us:

Jeremiah 32:40 - I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And **I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.** (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves (G1438 heautou) from all (G3956 pas) defilement of flesh (G4561 sarx) and spirit (G4151 pneuma), **perfecting holiness in the fear of God** (G2316 theos).

Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (ESV)

Fear of God is not only about having the heart to repent from sin and "beat hand on chest and ask God for mercy", but it is also having a changed heart, endeavoring to please Christ with our actions:

II Corinthians 5:6-11 - So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.** Therefore, knowing the **fear of the Lord**, we persuade others. But what we are known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:10 - For **godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret**, whereas worldly grief produces death. (ESV)

78.2 For one's work to stand the test of fire

It should be:

- For God's Glory. Amen. All glory to God, not to me
- In obedience to the Word of God
- Working in the power of the **Holy Spirit**

God's telephone number

Jeremiah 33:3 - Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. (ESV)

The password

Psalms 100:4 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (ESV)

Medley youtube.com: God And God Alone {Gospel Medley}

Medley youtube.com: Holy Are You Lord Medley | Jesus Image

Song youtube.com: All Honor {Consuming Fire} | Jesus Image

Song youtube.com: Praise {feat. Brandon Lake, Chris Brown & Chandler Moore} | Elevation Worship

youtube.com: Hillsong - Saviour King 2007 Life began for me in just the realisation that there is the absolute truth, and that is a Person, Jesus, and knowing Him - knowing the Christ - is knowing the hands that created me. The thing is, I've known what it is to live without truth, and then to be living in truth, and it's a difference between being *bound*, and then *living in absolute freedom*. Like I just think about the grace of God, just His grace, undeserved for me, bought at the highest price and I think in that understanding alone there's no option but to give Him everything I have. That is the only possible response.

Isaiah 64:4 - From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. (ESV)

Acts 5:39 - but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God! So they took his advice, (ESV)

78.3 Please help me by repenting, forgiving your family in Christ, and imitating Christ

- I forgive everyone.
- I hold no grudges.
- But I'm fighting a spiritual battle right now, and I'm going to speak the truth as best as I can.

I Corinthians 13:6 - it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (ESV)

Forgive one another in Christ and be obedient, and hold no grudge for those in darkness, but try to be the light of the world to them, show them the love of God and the truth of God. Be obedient to Christ in everything that we are not outwitted by Satan:

II Corinthians 2:5-11 - Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are **obedient in everything**. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (ESV)

I am really sorry for any hurt I have been the cause of to anyone, and making frustrated prayers to God, like Job did, except for many reasons I deserve the tribulation which I have faced.

Please, God, forgive us for our blind spots and errors and continue to sanctify us.

I forgive everyone <2024-07-24 Wed>.

Please, God, continue to sanctify us.

78.4 Gospel

Amen youtube.com: The Holy Spirit took over my preaching in Las Vegas and left me in awe and trembling

We are delivered from this evil age:

Galatians 1:3-5 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

God is our deliverer from this generation (Consider if you were stuck in Sodom and wanted to escape - God can make that happen. God can pull a person out of the sinful generation):

Acts 2:40 - And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked generation. (ESV)

As we trust and obey Him:

Romans 16:19-20 - For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

II Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known **the way of righteousness** than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Psalms 18:1-2 - I love you, O LORD, my strength. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (ESV)

This is the gospel: Jesus Christ (and His commandments, teachings and prophetic writings about Him) and Him crucified:

I Corinthians 2:2 - For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (ESV)

If we keep Jesus' commandments and love our family in Christ, God all things will work together for our good:

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)

And John says by this we know him that we have come to know Him that we keep his commandments. So it's knowing Jesus and Him crucified. Both of these.

Isaiah 53:4-10 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD (3068. Yhv - Phonetic Spelling: (*yeh-ho-vaw'*), Meaning: *Jehovah*) has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of

the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (ESV)

We must continue on in Jesus Christ's teachings (II John 1:9). We must continue on abiding in the love of God (John 15:6, John 15:9-10). So we must take into consideration all that the Apostle Paul wrote (John 15:20), but most importantly, take into consideration all of Jesus Christ's recorded sayings (John 12:48). Not just Christ's death and resurrection, but Christ Himself (I Corinthians 2:2). Not just propitiation for our sin but the rest of Christ's recorded teachings. I've included lots of Jesus' commandments and teachings in this document:

I Corinthians 15:1-2 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:3-8 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (ESV)

Titus 2:11-15 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you. (ESV)

We must follow Jesus Christ's commandments to arrive at the knowledge of God. The devil tries to stop us from doing this:

II Corinthians 10:5-6 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

I John 2:3-6 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says I know him but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (ESV)

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (4100. pisteuó, pepisteukotas) in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (ESV)

The word "end" here in Romans 10:4 doesn't mean abolishment. It means more like "ultimate" or "fulfillment" or in context I think it means "final say" or even "foundation" or "cornerstone". So for those who have an agape-loving faith in Jesus Christ, a treasuring for the truth of the gospel, the free gift of righteousness that comes from God ultimately has the final say in judgement. In other words, the righteousness that is not of themselves but which is a free gift through faith in Christ based on His work alone has the ultimate say and also is the foundation for any other righteousness of a believer, such as persecution for the cross of Christ, and if all other righteousness fails, there is still no condemnation.

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end (G5056 telos) of the law (G3551 nomos) for righteousness (G1343 dikaiosune) to everyone who believes (G4100 pisteuo, trusts). (ESV)

Romans 10:11-15 - For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news! (ESV)

John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. (ESV)

The true gospel which we should be preaching so as to not be accursed is the gospel the Apostle Paul preached where we are supposed to have faith in Christ, hold fast in that faith as we are being saved, serve Christ, obey Christ and be strengthened by Christ, Christ who's blood was shed for us, Christ who died for our sins on a tree and rose again from the dead. The true gospel is the one where there is a day where God judges our hearts through Jesus Christ and disciplines us in advance of final judgement so that we are not condemned along with the people of the world who fail to receive the love of the truth in hearts so as to be saved, the world who loves darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

How do we receive grace? How do we receive Jesus Christ? Just the way He's told us:

Matthew 10:40 - Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. (ESV)

Matthew 18:5 - Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, (ESV)

Luke 9:48 - and said to them, Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great. (ESV)

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:8-9 - Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! (ESV)

There are various means of grace by which we receive Jesus Christ through faith and obedience to Him. I believe that baptism, the eucharist (the Lord's supper / communion), doing as the good Samaritan did, keeping Christ's commandments are all means of grace.

John 6:57 - As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. (ESV)

Like the bedrock of a house strengthens the foundations of the house which strengthens the remainder of the house, the cornerstone (faith alone in Jesus Christ's blood, death and resurrection) strengthens the foundations (laid while practicing Jesus' commandments) which strengthens the rest of the house, the house that is the eternal dwelling that I believe God builds for those who practice Jesus' commandments. A person has a strong eternal dwelling built for them as they keep Jesus' commandments and the cornerstone is their faith in Jesus Christ and His blood.

Romans 16:17-27 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise

as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen. I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord. Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you. Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (ESV)

Journal <2025-05-26 Mon> I don't want to be in this world. But I'm saved in a sense. I've come to a knowledge of the Truth. Though there is a salvation I wait for, waiting for Jesus to come and take me home. I hate being in this world, so incredibly much, especially with satan attacking my mind, and my relationships. I've prayed ceaselessly for deliverance. Haven't been delivered yet. But this morning <2025-05-26 Mon> I found that, during the siege against my mind trying to take my thoughts way from Christ, as I focused on thinking about Jesus including about obeying Him, but just singing worship music in my head (I was thinking Jesus, lover of my soul... I will never let You go), the attack against my soul (spirit spouse stuff) temporarily subsided. Though I feel like my spiritual health is depleted. Now I just have to get through the rest of my time here in this evil age (somehow) before Jesus comes to get me. God help me.

The devil works to stop us Christians from taking every though captive for obedience to Christ. Much of the spiritual attack comes from people to "stop striving to obey Jesus" and to 'rest'. Only the devil dissuade people from obeying Christ:

Luke 8:12 - The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (ESV)

Romans 16:17-20 - I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (ESV)

Those who keep Jesus' word, also keep the word of the direct Apostles of Jesus such as Peter, John and Paul:

John 15:20 - Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

It's faith in God through faith in Jesus Christ, the same Jesus Christ who atoned for our sin. We go from serving sin to serving God through serving Jesus:

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

We must keep ourselves in the love of God. We must not deny Jesus Christ by word or works:

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

Jude 1:20-21 - But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

We must gather with Jesus and agree with the Holy Spirit with hope of eternal life:

Matthew 12:30 - Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. (ESV)

Matthew 12:32 - And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. (ESV)

Mark 10:29-30 - Jesus said, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (ESV)

Having tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and shared in the Holy Spirit, don't go back to sin:

Hebrews 6:4-6 - For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. (ESV)

youtube.com: I Need You More - Mark Barlow, REVERE {@REVERELive} 'Cause I never want to go back to my old life; I need You more; More than yesterday; I need You more; More than words can say; I need You more; Than ever before; I need You, Lord

- 1 Dear Heavenly Father, and my LORD Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit,
- 2 Jehovah, Almighty God,
- 3 God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
- 4 Lord Jesus Christ, please rescue me.
- 5 I need You to rescue me, LORD God.
- 6 Rescue me in Jesus Christ's name.
- 7 Deliver me from this evil age which Jesus gave Himself to deliver me from.
- 8 That is the gospel, don't let me down.
- 9 AMEN!!

78.4.1 Journal entry <2025-06-17 Tue>

I think it's really important to stick to my conviction regarding waiting for the promised voice of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of Jesus Christ from the Holy Spirit in my heart.

I don't want to bear false testimony about Jesus or His gospel, and so I want to be guided by a Spirit which testifies of Jesus. I'm resisting being goaded by spirits which do not confess sufficiently the facts about Jesus Christ, facts such as that He has come from God in the flesh, and before trusting some dream/vision/voice which I hear, I'm holding out for Scriptural confirmation that the Spirit speaking to me comes from God.

I John 2:22-23 - Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (ESV)

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

Acts 1:4 - And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me; (ESV)

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (ESV)

John 15:26-27 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (ESV)

John 16:7-16 - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me. (ESV)

Galatians 4:6 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! (ESV)

I John 1:1-3 - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (ESV)

I Corinthians 1:9 - God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (ESV)

Revelation of John 3:20 - Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (ESV)

John 14:23 - Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (ESV)

AMEN!!

Zechariah 2:10 - Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. (ESV)

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

John 15:4-7 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (ESV)

Read divineoffice.org: Divine Office - Liturgy of the Hours of the Roman Catholic Church {Breviary}

Galatians 2:16 - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (ESV)

1 Lord, listen to my prayer:
2 turn your ear to my appeal.
3 You are faithful, you are just; give answer.
4 Do not call your servant to judgment
5 for no one is just in your sight.
6
7 The enemy pursues my soul;
8 he has crushed my life to the ground;
9 he has made me dwell in darkness
10 like the dead, long forgotten.
11 Therefore my spirit fails;
12 my heart is numb within me.
13
14 I remember the days that are past:
15 I ponder all your works.
16 I muse on what your hand has wrought
17 and to you I stretch out my hands.
18 Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.
19
20 Lord, make haste and answer;
21 for my spirit fails within me.
22 Do not hide your face
23 lest I become like those in the grave.
24
25 In the morning let me know your love
26 for I put my trust in you.
27 Make me know the way I should walk:
28 to you I lift up my soul.
29
30 Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies;
31 I have fled to you for refuge.
32 Teach me to do your will
33 for you, O Lord, are my God.

34 Let your good spirit guide me
35 in ways that are level and smooth.
36
37 For your name's sake, Lord, save my life;
38 in your justice save my soul from distress.
39
40 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
41 - as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

78.4.2 Journal entry <2025-06-22 Sun>

[@TruthUnites](https://www.youtube.com/@TruthUnites) | [@GospelSimplicity](https://www.youtube.com/@GospelSimplicity) @time: 21 min

I sometimes think the ecclesial journey really needs to be met by just simple abiding in Jesus, and the experiential and existential reality of union and communion with Christ, and allowing for what our puritan forefathers spoke about as the testimony of the Holy Spirit to the heart, the touch. And so let me explain my theology of that, hoping this could encourage someone out there. I really believe the Holy Spirit has a ministry of assurance, and I never would have guessed would have guessed that the word assurance would be one of the terms that would be a whole tagline for what I'm trying to do in my ministry. But I actually think assurance is, number one it's possible, number two it's good. If someone pulls up Bible Gateway and does a search for the word 'assurance', they'll find that word a lot, even in the definition of faith in Hebrews 11, 1 John 3 some wonderful words about how we reassure ourselves. I think assurance is a good thing and I just want to encourage people who are listening to this is a point our Catholic and Orthodox wonderful friends can agree with to a large degree. The Holy Spirit is in the business of the ministry of assurance. He is capable of supernaturally breathing, think of Aslan breathing on the stone statues and Narnia and they come to life, He can do that to any human heart. Just as much as the ministry of Christ through His resurrection is this objective reality. The Holy Spirit, He's the most wonderful person to know. He can breathe on your heart and reassure you of the love of God, that you're a child of God. Romans 8, the spirit testifies with our spirit so that we know we are children of God.

Amen!! I'm waiting for this "Holy Spirit to my spirit" testimony and the promised testimony of Jesus.

Romans 8:16-18 - The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (ESV)

78.4.3 Anti-gospel

We must not pervert the grace of God. And we must not pervert the gospel of God into one which rejects God's authority over us:

Jude 1:4-19 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, **ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.** Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, **reject authority**, and blaspheme the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, The Lord rebuke you. But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. Woe to them! For they walked in the

way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, looking after themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; **fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted**; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever. **It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.** These are grumblers, malcontents, **following their own sinful desires**; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions. It is **these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.** (ESV)

78.4.4 Christ is a ransom to be offered to all

There is one God, one Mediator. We are called to take this message to the world. And we definitely should continue to do this:

I Timothy 2:1-4 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who **wishes all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** (ESV)

I Timothy 2:5-7 - For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who **gave himself as a ransom for all**, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (ESV)

78.4.5 Journal entry <2025-07-12 Sat>

When I was born-again of the spirit on 2 April 2022, God gave me a new heart which feared Him and was able to receive correction from Him. I didn't have all the answers. I didn't have great theology. But God would teach me. In other words, He would write His laws on my heart, and help me to abide in Christ's commandments.

I truly do despair of life as it is right now. Against my understanding, I have been terrorised by demons - being punished and tormented without knowing why. I've just been continually trying to understand why. And of course, satan has huge numbers of accusations and reasons which he tries to make be believe.

If I'm in the kingdom of God then I feel like a package moving around a busy sorting facility, constantly being tested and sorted, without end. I've felt constantly under constraint, deprived of sleep, woken up by demons - a messenger of Satan, I think. And it feels like in my soul, the body of sin, the flesh, is trying to usurp and kill the new creation, and the people around me also placing such unreasonable pressure on me to obey the flesh and to not live in the spirit. In other words, pressuring me to think like the world thinks, rather than to have the mind of Christ.

youtube.com: I Need You More - Mark Barlow, REVERE {@REVERELive} 'Cause I never want to go back to my old life; I need You more; More than yesterday; I need You more; More than words can say; I need You more; Than ever before; I need You, Lord

And where is the promised testimony of the Holy Spirit as I seek to keep Christ's commandments and abide in His teachings? (Sorry if I sounded disgruntled as I wrote that.)

I feel like I'm dying sometimes, dying spiritually, losing the fight against the enemy who attacks my soul and attacks me through people around me.

I want to be set free, as Jesus Christ promised for those who He sets free. I know Jesus bought me but sadly it seems He allowed me to be absolutely terrorised by demons.

Requiring employment/world's assets before marriage proposal is evil, as to require it puts man's kingdom above God's kingdom. Because to do so would be saying that people have to have what the world says qualifies a person before they have the right to what God freely gave us. It would be like telling a bird it's allowed to fly only if it can qualify as a human pilot. It would be like telling a person they don't have a right to become a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ. It would be like hating Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, so putting Him to death on a tree. Denying what is given to us as a right is anti-God.

I Timothy 4:1-3 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who **forbid marriage** and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. (ESV)

After getting a conviction, it really does seem to me that I've still received intense demonic oppression to prevent me from marrying and working. I think that I've had excessive satanic resistance to getting married or getting a job. Meanwhile, the whole world is embracing this AI stuff which greedy people are trying to normalise. They're trying to normalise theft, misrepresentation, etc. and get people to think and live with it and run the economy on top of it, but this stuff is detached from reality. What's being done to exploit people and suppress the true knowledge of God is evil. I don't want anything to do with crypto assets or AI stuff because I don't want blood on my hands. I tried to help people see what was coming with AI stealing software and tried to warn people and when it rolled around I got given a criminal conviction and deplatformed for a marriage proposal and for what I think were unlawful bail breach accusations. Well, the world no doubt hates me like it hated Jesus because I testify that its works are evil as Jesus did:

I Timothy 4:1-5 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. (ESV)

John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. (ESV)

Do I have the right to ask?

I don't think that the marriage proposal I made should have been treated as unlawful.

If it were decided that it was wrong for me to do so and if that set precedent then I see that future of not being able to propose marriage for fear of the terminator turning up at your doorstep as a dystopia. I tried to demonstrate that even an AI system can regurgitate an "ritual of engagement", which makes a genuine proposal something that people shouldn't snuff out. The future without the freedom to propose marriage sounds like a living hell. I wouldn't want to live in a world like that and I certainly don't plan on it.

I believe that to not be allowed to even propose to a person who is eligible is evil.

I Timothy 4:1-3 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. (ESV)

I should be able to find out if someone is a believer. And I don't think it's wrong to propose even before finding out if they are a believer.

As far as I know there is no law against doing so.

Romans 4:15 - For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. (ESV)

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)

We have the right to take a believing wife, but that doesn't mean whoever we want. It doesn't mean we can't ask someone. I still think we have the right to propose. But we might not be allowed to marry them. That's the right way to understand it, I think.

This verbiage "take along" does sound like "lead about". So what Paul says he might be written more unambiguously as, "Are we not allowed to take around (bring) with us a wife who is a sister in Christ, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?" If that's the way it was meant, then that still implicitly does carry with it the idea that they are allowed to have a wife. But the passage doesn't necessarily speak about merely "becoming married" (i.e. the right to 'become married') but does seem to entail that idea too because if someone has the right to bring along or spend time with their wife then that presupposes that a state of marriage is something someone has the right to be in:

I Corinthians 9:5 - Do we not have the right (G1849 exousian: authority [N-AFS]) to take along (G4013 periagein: to take about [V-PNA], to lead about with oneself) a believing (G79 adelphēn: a sister [N-AFS]. i.e. a sister in Christ) wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? (ESV)

See how it says that a person does not sin by taking a wife, even after they are called. But Paul says for those who marry after they are called there will be worldly troubles. And also, Paul points out that the present form of the world is passing away, so after we are called by God, we should really be anticipating the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:

I Corinthians 7:24-31 - So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

And marriage was instituted by God at the dawn of Creation. And anyone who is not God is not permitted to separate a marriage partner. And anyone who defiles the marriage bed would be judged. I would imagine that includes people who defile other people's marriages:

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor **among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

Galatians 3:15 - To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. (ESV)

Matthew 19:4-9 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. (ESV)

Most of the trees in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were freely allowed to eat. What is permissible. What is unhelpful? What are my freedoms?

I'm not under Mosaic Law. I'm not under man's tradition. I'm under Christ's Law and Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ. All Christ's commandments are Grace and Truth! That means I'm under grace and under Christ's Law at the same time! (Isaiah 41:1-4, Romans 15:12, Matthew 12:19-21, Isaiah 11:10)

Under Christ's Law, I'm allowed to propose marriage if I'm doing it lawfully, receiving with thanksgiving, knowing the truth, while keeping God's Great Commandments, while holding faith in Jesus Christ, while following Jesus Christ, while keeping Christ's Law with a good conscience.

I can't claim total self-denial (in order to avoid risking any chance of causing others injury) with this one. So I can't claim perfect innocence (as Jesus Himself could).

I was simply told by a member of their family, "Any further contact (with them) is unlawful." If I told someone, "It's unlawful to talk to some person.", does that make it unlawful? Do they have that right to tell me what is lawful or not? I wanted to marry someone (and I don't think I'd told any of them at that stage), and I was told before revealing my desire that "any further contact with any member of their family was unlawful" (not from a police officer) at the time.

And I was born-again of the spirit. Was I born-again of the spirit after or before being told that any further contact is unlawful? Pretty sure it was after, but not certain, as didn't make a record. I was made into a new person. New creation. Then I made contact and proposed later in the year. I was born-again and simply became preoccupied with Jesus Christ and later that year I proposed. Even after being born-again, I was simply gutted at the thought of not hearing from her again. I was aware even after being born-again of the spirit (made new) that I was told before revealing my desire that "Any further contact is unlawful" by a member of their family. To not propose to her would feel like destroying something very pure.

Later, I proposed to her but I was taken to court over it. Anyway, at pleading guilty, I committed my way to the Lord Jesus Christ, and I felt like I wasn't allowed to move forward even after I committed my way.

Psalms 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. (ESV)

One court judge said I must have been baptised at midnight. The other court judge said "That is your opinion" in response to me saying that "Jesus is the Truth" in a letter to him. And he said that I'm not allowed to forgive. But I pleaded guilty effectively to harassment for exercising free speech (2 out of 3 of the bail breaches claims from my perspective were not lawful but I couldn't take the other side to trial because I didn't want to hurt her, rather I still had lots of joy over proposing, but as soon as court proceeding started, I truly didn't want to break the law. The bail breach claims from my perspective were unlawful. I had tried very carefully to not break bail while also not stopping doing what I was within my rights to freely do, and I didn't think what I was doing was evil. I didn't really know for certain it was her who was distressed, but I didn't want to cause her any distress. I had no fear over punishment at all. I didn't care about my own career. In fact, my old self died when I was born-again. To take them to trial would waste their time and money and it would not be exercising Christ's love if I were to take them to trial over it. The first bail breach was the only valid one from my memory. But the same time, it was graceless. I breached bail for asking, "Can I try ask again in a year?" after a police officer simply said, "The smartest thing I can do is just drop it", just after I had proposed marriage. Like the Terminator arriving at my door after having proposed to the love of my life. And so I broke bail the first time for asking again if I could ask in a year. I guess I have a human heart. Can I be taken to prison for that, proposing while under unreasonable constraint? Probably only by a system which is anti-human) and neither was I forcing someone to marry me, simply making an offer.

Now, in committing to that path of going my separate ways, I have had immense pressure from other people and through demonic dreams, to renege on that commitment.

I need God to set me free from satanic oppression over my life.

I feel like God would betray me to force me to find secular employment before having a wife. Why? Because I had put Jesus first before marriage. It feels like having to hold my breath and resist the urge to breath in 'dying' to that marriage proposal. And after doing so I would see it as purely evil to not allow me to move forward on that commitment to move forward. To hold me in this position would be like to not even allow a person to die while drowning at the bottom of the ocean, a person who was there in the first place because they didn't want to harm their neighbour.

We must be law-abiding (that is by God's law for us). Even as Christians, we have been given commandments to follow:

I John 4:17-21 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (ESV)

This makes it quite clear that we must be law-abiding:

Matthew 13:38-42 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (ESV)

Having a fear of law enforcement is only something we should have if we have evil conduct. We are not called to fear law enforcers and so long as we are keeping God's commandments for us, we should have no fear even of "going to jail", but we should have a fear of God and be doing our best to keep God's commandments for us and maintain a good conscience with God. If a person is actually obeying God faithfully (loving God) but breaks man's laws as they do so then it would not be wrong to have no fear of man, even of punishment, or prison-time.

Sometimes, people can go to jail when they are innocent, and such a person should have no fear of punishment if they have a clean conscience with God. Rather, we are supposed to simply fear God and endeavour to keep His commandments for us at all costs, even if it means we go to jail, and the threat of jail time shouldn't deter a person from endeavouring to keep God's law. We are supposed to be subject to the governing authorities. God uses them. And also, God is our avenger. Unjust judges do exist (Luke 18:2-6). God doesn't want us to take vengeance for ourselves. But we are supposed to be subject to the governing authorities:

Romans 13:1-6 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)

Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (ESV)

I don't have a perfect memory and don't think I had immaculate conduct with my brush with law enforcement in 2022, but I know that I don't want to harm anyone and I want to maintain a good conscience with God.

However I'm totally willing to work for God as Adam did before God made Eve, that's fine. Man is espoused to Christ first. Christ the head of the man, and man the head of the wife. Not the Pope as head of the man, but Christ Himself as head of the man.

II Corinthians 11:2-3 - I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:23 - For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Whatever has happened to me has been grossly lacking in grace.

I have no desire at all to ever propose to anyone else ever again. I want all my memories to be erased. I want God to honour His own words and send Holy Spirit to make testimony of Jesus Christ to me. That's really important.

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

John 15:26 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **he will bear witness about me.** (ESV)

It's a massive issue for me, because, being utterly sick of being harassed by demons, I want that peace and rest which Jesus gives to us when He makes us lie down in green pastures. I had huge amounts of peace, and it feels as though the peace has been stolen from me. I want God to testify of Jesus Christ to me through Holy Spirit. I want to feel like I'm not being abused by God, and so I want this testimony. By faith I believe I'm a child of God, but I want to hear that testimony from God Himself in a way that I know 100% that the spirit speaking to me is from God:

Romans 8:9 - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

Just to be clear, this ball rests in God's courts. I feel as though I have not been fairly dealt with by God, and if I have a bone to pick with anyone, it is only with God.

78.4.6 Journal entry <2025-07-16 Wed>

I guess I could take a page from Justin Martyr and the Apostle John. According to Justin Martyr, we need to have come to "know" Jesus, and according to the Apostle John, that means we need to have put a stop to willful sin to have arrived at rest in Him. So we find rest at the end of sanctification, or at some point in that process of sanctification where we stop committing wilful sin. That makes sense to me. I would agree that I am still in need or would desire to have further sanctification. I think it's quite a good thing to want to improve at loving people. That's what I want to do. But now I have confidence that the rest is on the horizon. All who hope in Him purify themselves. And during this sanctification process, we still get to call ourselves children of God:

I John 3:1-11 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (ESV)

Justin Martyr says, "Wherefore those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him.":

Saint Justin Martyr: Fragments of the Lost Work of Justin on the Resurrection {Roberts-Donaldson}

And God, the Father of the universe, who is the perfect intelligence, is the truth. And the Word, being His Son, came to us, having put on flesh, revealing both Himself and the Father, giving to us in Himself resurrection from the dead, and eternal life afterwards. And this is Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. He, therefore, is Himself both the faith and the proof of Himself and of all things. Wherefore **those who follow Him, and know Him, having faith in Him as their proof, shall rest in Him**. But since the adversary does not cease to resist many, and uses many and divers arts to ensnare them, that he may *seduce the faithful from their faith, and that he may prevent the faithless from believing, it seems to me necessary that we also, being armed with the invulnerable doctrines of the faith, do battle against him in behalf of the weak.*

78.4.7 Journal entry <2025-08-29 Fri>

I have no desire to remain in this world especially while God is withholding the testimony of Jesus Christ from Holy Spirit to me (which He has conditionally promised, by the way), and allowing demons to harass me (yes, to this day I have demons speaking all sorts of things to me in my sleep, waking me up during the night), and allowing me to be held in a spiritual prison like witchcraft (keeping me held under constraint through various means such as loss of rights, sleep disruption, lies, slander and gossip, in order to manipulate/control me, and often being confronted by demonised people trying to trap me in my own words).

Also, it seems like I usually get the opposite of what I pray for, and it certainly seems as though demons are intercepting my prayers, and watching vigilantly how I respond to temptations/trials and punishing me when I choose to obey God.

I find it very unfair how unprepared I was doctrinally, but right out of the gates, immediately after I was born-again on 2 April 2022, I just had people holding heretical, occult, and antichrist beliefs crossing paths me with continually. It feels like the spiritual circumcision was made but some antichrist spirit has been trying to weld the old crucified man back onto me, or something like that, and trying to "keep me in this world", and this damned heretical spirit trying to push for "unity with the world", has been disgustingly persistent.

Meanwhile, God, who should be supporting me to separate from the world, appears to have been ignoring me as I cry out to Him and just allowing me to be harassed continually by people trying to take my thoughts away from God.

After being born-again, made new, I feel robbed, or more like I was given a really, really unfair deal. I feel as though God has treated me very unfairly.

I hate being here so much in this anti-God world so much, and I hate so much that despite my faith that God would deliver me from it, I am continually getting dealt what feels like the opposite of what I pray for.

Life feels impossible to live mostly due to feeling like God has not been speaking to me.

It feels hopeless when God is elusive.

Ephesians 2:12 - remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (ESV)

Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (ESV)

I hate being here in this world so much. Make what you want of my testimony about getting born-again. I'm not "burying my talents" (God's property which He entrusted me with (Matthew 25:14-23)) - rather, it feels as though I've sown into God's Kingdom but that God has treated me as expendable.

God didn't give me an explicit testimony of Jesus to my heart, and neither have I heard the Holy Spirit speak clearly to me telling me that I'm a child of God. I have only claimed the promise through faith in the gospel.

This "Faith and Judgement" document is my testimony, and I'm trying to be an honest as I can be about it. This is what happened to me so far as I have been holding my faith in Jesus after getting born-again.

It does seem like totally unreasonable and unjust pressure has been placed on me. I mean, imagine if all of Jesus' disciples had been continually adversarial to Jesus, as Peter was that time (Mark 8:33), and if Jesus was constantly rebuking all of His disciples. To me it feels as though my interactions with people have been continually adversarial like that.

I have tried my best to not waste God's property (I Corinthians 7:23) which He entrusted me with (Matthew 25:14-23) by having faith in Jesus and seeking to obey His commandments and be vocal about my journey, but here I am left in a world that appears as though it's remorselessly anti-God, while God Himself doesn't speak clearly to me but just allows me to get harassed almost continually by demons.

I don't belong in this world with this AI stuff going on where human beings are trying to replace human beings and trying to replace God. I just don't belong here.

youtube.com: Oxford Professor: AI Is Humanity's Attempt to Make God {@DavidPerellChannel} @time

And of course, then you have the parallel thing that the idea of building God. Yeah. You see, and the notion of data religion and AI religion and Harari saying, if you want to know about religion, go to Silicon Valley, not to the church. Well, I was thinking of Psalm 115:8, which says, "Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them."

That we're making these this AI in the image of humans, not in the image of God.

Oh, that's absolutely right. And it's I mean, this is this is idolatry left and right.

Yes, it is. And that's another trajectory through it.

I separate a whole lot of trajectories. The trouble is they get confused. The first is to make super intelligent humans who are like gods with a small g. That's Harari. And that's to be done in one of two ways.

First of all, to enhance existing humans, re-engineer their genetics and all the rest. The second way is to start with a nonbiological base like silicon and build some sort of entity that is created by human beings but will transcend them.

Those are the two main avenues and some people are trying to do them together. So there's that, but then there arises the question immediately, is this playing God? Is this another tower of babel? And it looks very much like it.

A towering desire to reach to heaven.

Psalms 115:3-8 - Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them. (ESV)

I have no desire to interact with the corrupt world. I don't want to become unclean by working within a corrupt system, especially when it feels like I'm alone, forsaken by God in that He does not speak to me.

If I had God speaking clearly to me, instructing me in my decision-making, then maybe life would be bearable. But sadly, that's definitely not the case.

Truly it feels as if I've had to rely on Scripture-alone, while I've been forced to hear demonic voices almost exclusively.

Hopefully Jesus will rapture me out of here. I absolutely believe He can rapture me. And I believe that this can surely happen (I Thessalonians 4:16-17) from the perspective of anyone who has faith in Jesus and in Jesus' words, no matter which generation they are in. I think that my life "forked" paths when I was born-again and my own fate is not the same as the fate of this world. So I still hold a strong faith that Jesus will rapture me out of this world, and having faith in Jesus' words (Matthew 24:42-44) is still having faith in Jesus Himself because they're His words. But I have no plans on staying here if Jesus has no plans to speak to me directly during my stay or to honour His own conditional promises (II Corinthians 6:17).

II Corinthians 6:17 - Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, (ESV)

John 15:26 - "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, (ESV)

I think it was 2 nights ago, among all of the evil dreams I had was a voice which just said, "Do you want to help people to find Jesus?" Well, obviously I want people to find Jesus and will do my duty towards that, but I rebuke the spirit which refuses to confess that Jesus Christ has come [into the world, from Father God,] in the flesh, and if that spirit which asked me "Do you want to help people to find Jesus?" refuses to make that confession to me, then I rebuke it in Jesus Christ's name because I wouldn't want Jesus' sheep to be misled. There are enough false prophets in the world.

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world**. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

But I want to speak my position on hearing these voices and seeing these visions which can sometimes "appear" nice, but in reality are intrusive, insidious, tricky and often misleading.

If someone can speak a sentence to me direct to my mind, then they can also surely confess Jesus to me, and make the I John confession which I require. Otherwise I don't listen to it. That's where the bar is set. I don't care if it sounds nice.

John 10:27,10:5 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. (ESV)

I'm at the point where I ignore such voices, no matter what, and just do a Bible study instead.

Matthew 7:22-23 - On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (ESV)

In a very real sense even this voice which asked me "Do you want to help people to find Jesus" is mocking me by asking without confessing because as I've previously mentioned, I do not trust voices which I hear in my sleep at all unless they pass the test which the Apostle John speaks of. Those are the rules. I don't care how nice it sounds. Either confess or don't interrupt my sleep. It's really that simple.

I have not heard the testimony that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and I need to hear it.

I John 4:2-3 doesn't say that if a spirit speaks the name "Jesus" then it's from God. It doesn't say that at all. Rather, this word confess (G3670 homologeó) surely means that "confess Jesus" is agreeing with, agreeing with Jesus. The spirit must agree that Jesus has come in the flesh and the spirit must agree with Jesus. Now if a spirit does say to me that "Jesus Christ has come from God into the world in the flesh", then that gives me confidence that the message is from God:

I John 4:2-3 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

Recently demons have been harassing me a lot, terrorising me in my sleep even 'yelling' things like, "Come to Christ!" just to wake me up, as I hear them laugh at and mock me, denying my sleep.

This type of behaviour:

Luke 23:36-37 - The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself! (ESV)

Luke 4:9-11 - And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you, and On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. (ESV)

I have no intention of relying on dreams:

Jude 1:8 - Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. (ESV)

And I'll usually just wake up and declare something the way Jesus declared from the Scripture:

Luke 4:12 - And Jesus answered him, It is said, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. (ESV)

Demons can mention Jesus' name:

Luke 8:28 - When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me. (ESV)

78.4.8 Journal entry <2025-09-03 Wed>

In the morning I woke up with a dream which said I'm baptized into John Timothy (yeah, it was John Timothy). But unreliable because no confession that Jesus Christ has come into the world in the flesh! So a total write-off. And besides, I'm baptized into Christ!

I Corinthians 1:10-15 - I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, I follow Paul, or I follow Apollos, or I follow Cephas, or I follow Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (ESV)

And some very clearly demonic dreams too, and more spiritual attack too. There was a dream of me crushing a brother's first two fingers. Totally demonic dreams I have been getting. I've been getting a lot of demonic harassment. I'm only trusting Scripture and if I were to trust a dream or vision, then it must come with the testimony that Jesus Christ has come into the world in the flesh. I have not heard it.

I commented on this video today:

youtube.com: Being a Single Christian {and How To Deal With It} {@itsjameycarrington} Speaking the truth in love, and for posterity. I actually think this view that a man does not have a right to take a wife is wrong. Believing men have a right to take a believing wife, just not whoever they want. It's a God-given right, though, for a believing man to take a believing wife! God has given human beings rights. One of these rights is to become a child of God through faith in Jesus (**John 1:12-13**), for example. That means we have the right to keep Christ's commandments and noone has the right to deny a believer in Jesus the right to a) put a stop to sin, b) love your family in Christ (including forgiving them), and c) practice righteousness because that's how Apostle John describes children of God. We have a right to marry (**I Corinthians 9:3-14**) but not whoever we want, because a wife is a gift: People may not make use of their rights and decide to not marry for the sake of the Kingdom (**Luke 18:29-30, Matthew 19:12**). So it would be evil for the government to make it illegal for a man to take a wife (**I Timothy 4:1-3**). In fact, making it impossible for a person to marry has the potential to be destructive to a person, if it pushes them into defiling passion then it can damage the person's soul (**I Peter 2:11, Colossians 2:20-23,3:1-6**).

If we want to start a family then we should have the fear of God and ask God. A wife is a gift from God:

Exodus 1:20-21 - So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. (ESV)

Matthew 7:9-12 - Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father** who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So **whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them**, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

I Timothy 4:1-5 - Now the Spirit expressly says that **in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. (ESV)

Even though I believe what I've written on Jamey's youtube channel video, I would still not venture to test God with regards to renegeing on my committment I have made to renege on the marriage proposal. I am committed for the sake of the kindgom to renege on the marriage proposal. I want to be cleaned up and sanctified and delivered from evil.

When I pray to God for deliverance, it's not deliverance from having a criminal conviction - let me make that expressly clear. I want peaceful sleep, a peaceful soul, deliverance from demonic oppression, and I want to be able to work. But I do not want to undo the criminal conviction.

78.4.9 Journal <2025-09-07 Sun>

More harassment during the night and in the morning. I'm very sick of it.

So this morning I get a picture of "DadJesus" as a SC2 player name. And I just remember thinking, that's still not the confession which I'm waiting for. And I rebuke the harassing spirit interrupting my sleep. Then I get a picture of "Lucifer" as a SC2 player name. And I wake up and rebuke it in the name of Jesus Christ.

And then a strange dream between me and a Muslim trying to tell me to rub a cork and me saying I'm not superstitious, and that it's more difficult to correct a mistake or something. These dreams I'm getting are demonic.

And then I got another picture of the name of one of the YA members of the old church I used to go to, and I prayed for them. If I recall correctly, I prayed that God would protect them. I'll pray again.

- 1 Dear Heavenly Father and my Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit,
- 2 Jehovah, Almighty God,
- 3 please, LORD, protect this person, and be close to them,
- 4 and lead them on paths of righteousness for Your sake.
- 5 In Jesus Christ's name, I ask,
- 6 AMEN!!

And in Jesus Christ's name I rebuke the demonic harassment which has been causing me sleep disruption. And in Jesus Christ's name I rebuke those spirits which have been preventing me from taking a wife and from getting work.

So I believe that Jesus, (Yeshua, Joshua) is one of God's names, Jesus being God the Son of God, and Father God having given Jesus His own name which belongs to Him (to Father God):

As it says on the GotQuestions website The name Jesus, announced to Joseph and Mary through the angels (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31), means "Yahweh saves" or "Yahweh is salvation." Transliterated from Hebrew and Aramaic, the name is Yeshua. This word is a combination of Ya, an abbreviation for Yahweh, the name of Israel's God (Exodus 3:14); and the verb yasha, meaning "rescue," "deliver," or "save."

Jesus (Yeshua, Iēsous) and Jehovah (Yahweh) all refer to God's name (**onoma**).

I have a section here on theology to do with God's name: semiosis.github.io: Thoughts on Faith and Judgement - Jehovah is Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth

When I was born-again of the Spirit on 2 April 2022, I called out to Jesus to save me. Nothing has changed with regards to who is my Lord and Saviour and God and King.

Also, I'm still being persecuted and harassed regarding relationships, etc.

Gay marriage and homosexual relationships are inherently sinful and agape-loving the sin more than (or rather than) agape-loving Jesus leads to death.

John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)

Romans 6:22-23 - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

We have to come to the love the Truth. The truth is Father God, the truth is Jesus Christ.

Age-gap marriage and relationships between consenting adults are not inherently sinful, as far as I understand. A wife is a gift from God, and we can't take whoever we want. We can ask God for a wife.

And I rebuke that anti-marriage spirit in the Mighty name of Jesus Christ, Jehovah, Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I rebuke that anti-marriage spirit in the Mighty name of God, I rebuke it.

I also rebuke every spirit of sinful sexual behaviour in Jesus Christ's name. I rebuke rape, adultery and fornication, incest, child abuse and animal abuse in Jesus Christ's name. I rebuke the sin and I rebuke the spirits endorsing the sin. I rebuke them in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

With our best interests in mind, God doesn't want us to commit sin even after we are born-again and have
[christapostolicmiraclemistry.org part4.htm](http://christapostolicmiraclemistry.org/part4.htm): Do not defile your body Part 4

As I was about to walk through the door of the Salvation Army today, a guy I had seen on the street referred to me as Rob, the name of my dad of the flesh (that is, my earthly dad), which was odd. I attended the Sunday service at the Salvation Army, there was a quiz on fathers in the Bible. For example, there were a couple of questions:

- Which of these 4 options was a son to David? And the answer was Solomon.
- Which of these 4 options was father to Jacob? And the answer was Isaac.

I quickly found out that it's actually Father's Day today when it was mentioned. Then the sermon was on Luke 15:11-32.

So it's obvious that what has happened today is clearly "spiritual" / "prophetic" in nature.

Anyway, I realised that I had missed one thing I want to rebuke today. I also rebuke the spirit of transhumanism in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. In the Mighty name of Jesus Christ's name I rebuke the spirit of substituting a spouse with a robot (or AI). In the Mighty name of Jesus Christ I rebuke the spirit of having a robot (or AI) for a spouse.

78.4.10 Journal <2025-09-07 Sun>

I also watched this. Great video. I'd like to go over this video more thoroughly and incorporate some of it into by Bible study document.

youtube.com: ? What the Bible REALLY Says About Women as Church Leaders {@HeavenlyMindedHc}

Thank you. I am in essentially full agreement with this, and thanks for this. I'm recently born again and God has been teaching me and testing me. I love how you talked about how woman have calling to teach the children. And I learned a lot from this video. However 1 tiny thing I'd like to say is that I believe that woman in the Lord may be considered to be "sons" of God. The Biblical basis for this is... Just because a woman person may have an identity in Christ as a son of God (as Paul says neither male nor female), this transcendent reality is not a reason to pervert the natural order of things regarding natural gender. Paul is certainly not endorsing LGBT, etc. or same-sex marriage, and certainly not endorsing that slaves should not submit to their earthly master (**Titus 2:9-10**). Interestingly, I think Jesus is implying by saying that the sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, that a woman may be considered

a "son of this age", and it really gets me thinking about what that word 'son' is being used to mean. It's not a natural gender thing:

Luke 20:33-36 - In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife. And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead **neither marry nor are given in marriage**, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (ESV)

78.4.11 Journal <2025-09-10 Wed>

Protecting our God-given rights to live in a way pleasing to God is very important.

Watch youtube.com: Trump Makes Big Announcement On Bible, Religious Freedom In US| Vows To Protect Student Prayers {@mirrornow}

78.4.12 Journal <2025-09-12 Fri>

youtube.com: "Jesus Is the Only Answer." Tucker Carlson Responds to Charlie Kirk's Assassination. {@}

Read Luke 6. I mean, you know, Jesus does not endorse violence, honestly, even in self-defense, he says. So, you know, people can grapple with that as they will, but that's that's what it says.

And so, I am totally opposed to violence. But that is the dividing line. It's not left or right, Republican, Democrat, trans, straight or whatever there. I mean, there's an effort to recast this as a different kind of contest between worldviews.

It's no, the dividing line is do you think God exists or do you think you are God? And it's that simple. It has always been that simple. It will never change. And I think our souls are at stake. I really, really believe that. I think Jesus is the only answer.

Just with Tucker's last comments here, I really think it's more than just believing that God exists, but also trusting Him and loving Him. But I hope that is what Tucker was trying to articulate here.

Jesus is our life. God must be our first love:

Mark 8:35 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (ESV)

I John 5:12 - Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 30:20 - loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. (ESV)

Colossians 3:4 - When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (ESV)

That's what I would say, that the dividing line is between:

- faith in God, or faith in self or something else in preference to God
 - **Psalms 146:3** - Put not your trust in princes, in mortal man, who cannot save. (engbsb2020eb)
 - **II Corinthians 4:3** - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. (ESV)

- **I Cor 1:18,21,27** - For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (ESV)
- fear of God, or no fear of God,
 - **Proverbs 14:26** - In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge. (ESV)
 - **Romans 3:15-18** - Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes. (ESV)
- valuing God, or not valuing Him,
 - **Matthew 6:19-20** - Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (ESV)
- loving God, or loving darkness,
 - **John 3:19** - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (ESV)
 - **I Corinthians 16:22** - If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (ESV)
- trusting God, or not trusting Him,
 - **Proverbs 28:26** - Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. (ESV)
 - **Jeremiah 8:9** - The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, so what wisdom is in them? (ESV)
 - **Jeremiah 17:5-8** - Thus says the LORD: Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit. (ESV)
 - **Jeremiah 17:5** - Thus said Jehovah: Cursed is the man who doth trust in man, And hath made flesh his arm, And from Jehovah whose heart turneth. (YLT)
- holding confidence in God or not holding confidence in God,
 - **II Corinthians 3:4-5** - Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, (ESV)
 - **Philippians 3:3** - For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— (ESV)
- obeying God or obeying sin

— **Romans 6:16** - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (ESV)

I'm cherry-picking that part of Charlie's message because fighting for country is outside the scope, in my opinion, of man's ultimate duty and allegiance.

youtube.com: I Offend EVERYONE With The Truth About Modern Dating Culture In Front of 1,000 S

The ultimate thing should be loving God, loving people and raising children in a society that follows God's commands against the culture, not in consistency with the culture, to stand on my opinion (base our opinion) **on eternal truths.**

And fighting for the country doesn't mean killing. Fighting for the country could mean supporting one-another, working etc..

youtube.com: I Offend EVERYONE With The Truth About Modern Dating Culture In Front of 1,000 S

The West was built, our nation was built on delayed gratification, not instant gratification. That maybe I'm not going to go do what feels good in the moment. I'm going to forsake what feels good and I'm going to parlay that into the future.

78.4.13 Journal <2025-09-14 Sun>

"We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty." Amen! Now, Jesus Christ, Yeshua, please just get me out of here.

Luke 17:10 - So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty. (ESV)

God knows how many ages there are and God knows the day Jesus comes for us:

Isaiah 45:17 - But Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will not be put to shame or humiliated, **to ages everlasting.** (engbsb2020eb)

Isaiah 45:17 - Israel hath been saved in Jehovah, A salvation age-during! Ye are not ashamed nor confounded Unto the ages of eternity! (YLT)

Matthew 24:36 - 'And concerning that day and the hour no one hath known—not even the messengers of the heavens—except my Father only; (YLT)

Matthew 24:42-44 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (ESV)

John 3:8 - The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

In all likelihood the eschatology of the tribulation and rapture happens at the end of the age. How many ages are there? I simply do not know. Just the next one? Perhaps. More? Perhaps.

Just because I consider that God may or may not have more ages left, that doesn't mean I want to be here as a part of it. I don't. I just see this as a fork in the road. This age is wrapping up from what I can tell.

I don't want to stay here. I wholeheartedly believe that God can take me out of this world if it's His will. I'm begging God to just get me out of here. The spiritual warfare has been so intense. I don't have a desire to be here anymore. Marriage as a possibility was, in my view robbed from me, and no longer an option.

Luke 17:10 - So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty. (ESV)

We are saved by grace through faith, faith which God has commanded of us. Amen! Please, God, deliver me.

youtube.com: THE RACE TO DIVIDE ISRAEL IS ON!! {@WatchmanRiver} I commented: Tom, I just want to be taken out of this world and go to be with the Lord Jesus Christ. May Jesus Christ please save me and deliver me from this evil generation and deliver me from this world. I want to be raptured. I don't want to stay here. I keep getting attacked by demons. I've given my all for Jesus. I'm so tired and want to go home. I feel like there is so much spiritual darkness trying to force me to remain in this world. I've been born-again of the spirit. I don't want to stay here in this world. I don't belong in this world. God is good all the time. But it feels like I'm constantly receiving the opposite of what I ask for in prayer. There's some adversarial thing just constantly opposing sanctification and faith and trying to keep me in the world. I believe that rapture is imminent but that we should be walking in faith, love and holiness, abiding in Jesus' commandments, walking in the light, remaining faithful to Jesus, to be ready for rapture. God have mercy and let me not stay here on the earth. I'm so sick of it. I actually refuse to remain here. Jesus said about the sons of this age that they marry and are given in marriage. But sons of the resurrection neither marry nor are given in marriage. I've been spiritually resurrected. These certainly seem like Luke 21 times. I believe that God can absolutely rapture me. I don't believe we know the day or the hour it will happen. But I believe that it could happen at any time. Jesus Christ get me out of here. There's so much deception. I refuse to stay here. The church I just went to today was preaching against rapture. What I'm personally experiencing in my day to day is just so adversarial. There's so much deception in all the churches I've attended recently. I believe I'm a son of the resurrection. I'm not a son of this age, and it's an evil generation in my view.

Oh yeah and I believe that Jesus died on a tree and rose from the dead. His blood paid the price for me to be completely set free from sin. Jesus paid the price for me to be redeemed, spirit, and body. Jesus is Jehovah the Son of God. Jesus is Yahweh. We are unworthy servants. I've only endeavoured to my duty. I love God. I love Jesus. I'm trusting in Jesus' Christ's blood to be set free. It's Jesus' blood alone that can deal with my sin problem. I love my family in Christ. I endeavour to love my neighbour as myself. God knows I try to please Him. The evil that has come against me has seemed very defiling. May God take pity on me and deliver me from this world. May God sanctify me completely. May God speak to me please to give me the testimony of Jesus Christ from Holy Spirit confessing that Jesus Christ has come into the world in the flesh, direct to me. Please pray for me. I've been under so much spiritual attack. I was born-again of the spirit on 2 April 2022. I've literally seen my regenerated spirit and I called out to Jesus to save me. I don't want to be here. I refuse to remain here.

78.4.14 Journal <2025-09-15 Mon>

I actually don't remember much of dreams last night, but this morning I got a dream which I believe was adversarial/satanic, and masquerading with the face of an old friend. And as much as I love my old friend (of the flesh) it was literally anti-rapture, anti—"what I'm praying to God and hoping in God for". I just believe that it's satanic. What I experienced yesterday was far worse. Yesterday I had these sickening demonic dreams/visions. As I sit here I feel this defilement attacking my mind and soul.

Whatever rapture looks like, it certainly involves faith in Jesus Christ, and trusting in God's word, rather than following the course of this world.

I just pray for my old friends, those who were my friends before God put a new spirit inside of me.

1 Dear Heavenly Father and my Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit,

2 Jehovah, Almighty God,

3 please, LORD God, help those who when I unregenerate had been my friends according to the flesh, h

4 and to have faith in You, in Your word, in Your promises, and to not be led astray by the world.

5 Please help them to detach from the world and cling to You, God.

6 Open the eyes of the blind.

7 In Jesus Christ's name, I ask,

Romans 9:3 - For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. (ESV)

Romans 8:5-9 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (ESV)

Romans 8:12 - So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. (ESV)

Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (ESV)

Jeremiah 17:5 - Thus said Jehovah: Cursed is the man who doth trust in man, And hath made flesh his arm, And from Jehovah whose heart turneth. (YLT)

II Corinthians 3:14-18 - But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord (3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*), are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord ((3068. Yhvh - *Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw')*, *Meaning: Jehovah*) who is the Spirit. (ESV)

It's obvious to me that as I endeavour to remain spiritually-minded, trusting in God's word, there is a very real spiritual resistance. In John 17 Jesus prays for His disciples, asking Father God, not that they would be taken from the world but that they would be kept from the evil one, and sanctified in the truth.

John 17:15-17 - I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

We do overcome the world as we are believing, trusting, hoping in Jesus Christ:

I John 5:5 - Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (ESV)

II John 1:7 - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (ESV)

I John 5:19 - We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (ESV)

We want to be perfected in love as we are holding our faith in Jesus:

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

The world hates us as we do this:

I John 3:13 - Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. (ESV)

But the world is passing away:

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (ESV)

But those believing in, trusting in, hoping in Jesus will live:

John 6:47 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn*, is believing, is trusting) has eternal life. (ESV)

John 6:57-58 - As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever. (ESV)

Those believing in, trusting in, hoping in Jesus will still see Him and live:

John 16:7-11 - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (ESV)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

As we anticipate the day of redemption of our bodies, we should be actively serving God, serving Jesus Christ, with eyes of faith:

As someone who has had their spirit redeemed (I've been spiritually regenerated), I now anticipate the coming of the Lord, the redemption of my body.

John 3:3 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (ESV)

Luke 9:27 - But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God. (ESV)

If someone is not born-again of the spirit then they can't see the kingdom. They'll be thinking like the world, seeing things the way the world sees.

We should be walking in faith, love and holiness, seeking to please God, not burying what God has entrusted to us (**Matthew 25:1-46**), but sowing in His Kingdom. We should be seeking the knowledge of Jesus Christ, abiding in His commandments, and walking by the spirit. We should "get on with it", and not be fearful.

Luke 21:28-31 - Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. And he told them a parable: Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. (ESV)

Matthew 25:1-46 - Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him. Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise

answered, saying, Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves. And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him, You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying, Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (ESV)

The redemption of our bodies:

Ephesians 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for **the day of redemption**. (ESV)

Luke 21:28 - Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (ESV)

Romans 8:23 - And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the **redemption of our bodies**. (ESV)

78.4.15 Journal <2025-09-15 Mon>

youtube.com: I asked God about Sept 23-24 Rapture and this happened.. {@JAHRONCO} Amazing man. Yeah we wanna have eyes focused on Jesus, striving to be walking in faith love and holiness, ready for service, obedient Jesus in all He has commanded of us, waiting for our blessed hope the appearing of Jesus. I'm fighting a battle with the flesh right now. It hasn't been easy.

Titus 2:11-13 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (ESV)

This really hit home:

youtube.com: I'm Tired | A Short Christian Animation. {@WithChristisBJ} this life. I don't know how much more I can take. Jesus, I'm exhausted. I'm stressed. I'm overwhelmed. I don't know what to do anymore. Nothing feels right with me. Take this away. All of it. I can't stand to live on this earth anymore. [Music] Don't look away. Turn your eyes to me. I have everything you need. I'll never go away. I will forever stay.

78.4.16 Journal <2025-09-19 Fri>

- I've been under huge amounts of spiritual attack.
- God is good all the time, I believe, while I also endure extreme demonic oppression.
- God hasn't yet given me the testimony of Jesus Christ direct from Holy Spirit to my heart confessing / agreeing that Jesus Christ has come into the world from God in the flesh. But I am still agreeing that Jesus Christ is Jehovah the Son of God who has come into the world in the flesh from God (the Word of God became flesh).
- I'm sorry for getting upset at God.
- I hate my life here in this world. I passionately hate it.
- I hate how it seems like I'm continually going through tribulation and satanic resistance to holiness.
- I am angry with God for not providing the testimony of Jesus Christ from Holy Spirit.
- I am angry with how I perceive that I've been treated by God when I remember particular sufferings I have endured particularly after getting born-again, but also before.
- I feel as though I can't endure the isolation, the demonic harassment, and the withholding of the testimony from God direct to my spirit.
- Sanctification (being cleaned up) **is** the salvation.
- Only Father God knows the day or the hour when the coming of the Lord is.

An established heart is one which has been put on the right track:

II Thessalonians 2:16-17 - Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. (ESV)

For reassurance, we should be practicing love:

I John 3:18-19 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; (ESV)

I Thessalonians 3:13 - so that he may establish (G4741 stérizo: To establish, strengthen, fix, set firmly) your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (ESV)

An established heart is one which has become **dedicated**:

I Corinthians 7:37 - But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. (ESV)

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (ESV)

78.4.17 Journal <2025-09-21 Sun>

See how it says that a person does not sin by taking a wife, even after they are called. But Paul says for those who marry after they are called there will be worldly troubles. And also, Paul points out that the present form of the world is passing away, so after we are called by God, we should really be anticipating the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:

I Corinthians 7:24-31 - So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short.** From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. (ESV)

And marriage was instituted by God at the dawn of Creation. And anyone who is not God is not permitted to separate a marriage partner. And anyone who defiles the marriage bed would be judged. I would imagine that includes people who defile other people's marriages:

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor **among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (ESV)

Galatians 3:15 - To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. (ESV)

Galatians 3:17 - This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. (ESV)

Matthew 19:4-9 - He answered, Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. They said to him, Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away? He said to them, Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. (ESV)

Nevertheless, I'm still committed to "remaining as I am", anticipating the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't want to live in this world anymore. I wish my memories were erased.

I woke up this morning to getting another LGBT dream and some other stuff which was not the confession of the testimony that Jesus Christ has come into the world in the flesh, and I had more spiritual attack against my soul.

Tired, I made breakfast and played some Cute Defense. I was in a game of "Cute Defense" on StarCraft II and 2 people were spreading perverted, sexual and homosexual speech in the game chat so everyone can see it and I initiated a votekick.

I was told they don't support the votekick and I responded to them that Jesus doesn't support them. And one of them laughed.

Journal <2025-09-25 Thu> What I meant when I said, "Jesus doesn't support them" is that Jesus doesn't want them to be doing what they were doing, spreading perverted language in the game chat.

I said that I hate them spreading their perversion inside the game chat.

One of them said we're all sinners. I said that he sounded like an unrepentant one.

One of them said "I believe in God."

He said that hate is a sin.

I quoted 2 verses:

Psalms 139:21 - Do I not hate (H6962 quwt, loathe) those who hate (H8130 sane, To hate, detest, be hostile to) you, O LORD? And do I not loathe (H6962 quwt, loathe) those who rise up against you? (ESV)

In Psalms 139:21, there are two words which are translated into the English word "hate" but they are different words with different meanings. Proverbs 8:13 shows that it's a good thing to hate evil. As Psalms 139:21 shows, David loathed people who hate God but in the Greek it doesn't say that he hated them the same way that those people hated God because a different word was used. Sadly, the English translation here confuses this by using the same word in place of two different words.

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the LORD is hatred (H8130 sane, To hate, detest, be hostile to) of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate (H8130 sane, To hate, detest, be hostile to). (ESV)

I had specifically said, "The fear of God is the hatred of sin." I think that's a good paraphrase.

I said if you obey sin you'll die but if you obey God you'll live.

I actually hate when people spread filthy, sexual words in the game. And young people including children might be playing this video game. And these people were defending what they were doing.

And I pray for them that they'll repent and come to love God and hate sin.

- 1 Dear Heavenly Father and my Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit,
- 2 God, I want them to turn from their sin.
- 3 please, God, my desire is for them to turn away from sin and for them to love, You, God.
- 4 I hate with a righteous hatred when people commit gross injustice.
- 5 Spreading disgusting perverted speech in a video game especially when there may be young people in it.
- 6 And my anger against people who do such things is a righteous anger.
- 7 I don't consider them to be my family in Christ if they are unrepentant.
- 8 I know that I must agape love my family in Christ, but if people love sin more than You, God, then I hate the fact that their actions influence other people and because I don't want people to be influenced by sin.
- 9 these people who love sin more than You to be stopped particularly because it hurts other people,
- 10 That's the issue. It's not that I don't want them to be saved. I want them to be saved.
- 11 But I hate what they're doing. Do I love them? In that I don't want them to perish, yes, but come to salvation.
- 12 Please help them, God, to be saved.
- 13 In Jesus Christ's name, I ask,
- 14 AMEN!!

This person had said that they "believe in God." May God help them to change their ways and live pleasing to Him, pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 5:1-13 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

Ezekiel 18:20-24 - The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Revelation of John 2:2-6 - I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you **cannot bear with those who are evil**, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (ESV)

Mark 3:5 - And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, Stretch out your hand. He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

78.4.18 Journal <2025-09-25 Thu>

Luke 6:27-28 - But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. (ESV)

While Christians may loathe, be disgusted by people who celebrate sin, by people who hate God, Christians must not hate them with a murderous hatred. We must not desire for them to perish eternally, but would rather see them change their ways.

Ezekiel 20:43 - And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and **you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed.** (ESV)

Keep in mind that Paul advised a congregation of believers to put the sinful, evil person out of the congregation, hand them over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that their spirit would be saved. This person must have been unrepentant.

In sending them to jail or putting them outside the church, they might go through tribulation but perhaps they would repent, but Paul them doesn't want them to perish eternally by continuing to commit that sinful stuff they were doing.

I Corinthians 5:1-13 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you. (ESV)

So yes, hate the sin.

We should be wishing for other people to be saved. And we should overcome evil with good, return good for evil.

I found out today about what Donald Trump recently said:

Regarding what Donald Trump said at the Memorial for Charlie Kirk:

Donald Trump said "In that private moment on his dying day, we find everything we need to know about who Charlie Kirk truly was. He was a missionary with a noble spirit and a great, great purpose. He did not hate his opponents. He wanted the best for them. That's where I disagreed with Charlie. I hate my opponent. And I don't want the best for them. I'm sorry. I am sorry, Erika. But now Erika can talk to me and the whole group and maybe they can convince me that that's not right. But I can't stand my opponent."

I think it might be OK that he said, "I can't stand my opponent" if it were meant in the sense of he's disgusted by his opponent if he is disgusted at them because they're evil, if they are evil. But being disgusted at our enemies shouldn't stop us from loving our enemies and doing good to them.

Revelation of John 2:2 - I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and **how you cannot bear (G941 bastazó , to bear, carry, endure, support) with those who are evil**, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. (ESV)

Luke 9:41 - Jesus answered, O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear (G430. anechó, To endure, to bear with, to tolerate, to hold up) with you? Bring your son here. (ESV)

So Paul here didn't "bear with" the evil person but still seemed to have their best interest in mind. So sending someone to prison for evil behaviour, or putting them out of the church is OK:

I Corinthians 5:4-5 - When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

But to say "I hate my opponent", I hope was only in that "loathing/disgusted by" sense and not in the "have no regard for the life of/does not see value in" sense, as agape love (which Christians are commanded to have for those who hate them) is a love which wishes for the other person to not perish eternally by being a slave to sin.

I think that love "wills the ultimate good of another". And sometimes, that does mean discipline. So when Trump said, "I don't want the best for them. I'm sorry. I am sorry, Erika. But now Erika can talk to me and the whole group and maybe they can convince me that that's not right. But I can't stand my opponent." I truly hope that deep down he does and that what he really means is that he doesn't want evil to thrive but that all, even his enemies, even those who hate him, even those who he is disgusted by, would reach repentance and arrive at the love of the Truth.

Proverbs 13:24 - Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. (ESV)

II Peter 3:9-13 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (ESV)

Matthew 12:33-35 - Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. (ESV)

Being 'philos with (friends with, allured by, attracted to)', money , self, pleasure, rather than ((G3123 mallon: rather [Adv])) being allured by God (wanting to be around God) is bad. But we should avoid those who are attracted to such things rather than/instead of God. We want to be attracted to God, and certainly must be attracted to God moreso than by pleasure, money, self, etc. And we are instructed to avoid such people who are drawn to such things in preference to God. We are to avoid enemies of God:

II Timothy 3:1-5 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self (G5367 philautoi: lovers of self [Adj-NMP]), lovers of money (G5366 philargyroi: lovers of money [Adj-NMP]), proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good (G865 aphilagathoi: without love of good [Adj-NMP]), treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure (G5369 philedonoi: lovers of pleasure [Adj-NMP]) rather than (G3123 mallon: rather [Adv]) lovers of God (G5377 philotheoi: lovers of God [Adj-NMP]), having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (ESV)

James 4:4 - You *adulterous* people! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

I do find certain people to be disgusting. For example, when people are putting seedy, perverted speech inside of a video game chat. People that commit evil abominations disgust me, for sure. But there is a part of me that

knows that I was doing evil things once too and still I make mistakes (but I am repentant: I trust in Jesus, I believe in Him, I believe His words and deeds and I love Jesus, and I want to be holy as He is holy), and I would prefer that such people who celebrate, love and defend sin come to repentance, come to love God, love Jesus and hate sin.

I Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)

I think it's disappointing what Trump said on TV, but it was said with some ambiguity.

Psalms 139:21 - Do I not hate (H6962 quwt, loathe) those who hate (H8130 sane, To hate, detest, be hostile to) you, O LORD? And do I not loathe (H6962 quwt, loathe) those who rise up against you? (ESV)

David goes on to say that he hates his enemies, actually hates them. Jesus calls us to love our enemies, though:

Psalms 139:22-24 - I hate them (G8130 śō · nē · t̄im, , I hate them) with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (ESV)

Luke 6:27-28 - But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. (ESV)

Matthew 5:43-45 - You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate (G3404 misēseis) your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (ESV)

In Psalms 139:21, there are two words which are translated into the English word "hate" but they are different words with different meanings. Proverbs 8:13 shows that it's a good thing to hate evil. As Psalms 139:21 shows, David loathed people who hate God but in the Greek it doesn't say that he hated them the same way that those people hated God because a different word was used. Sadly, the English translation here confuses this by using the same word in place of two different words.

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the LORD is hatred (H8130 sane, To hate, detest, be hostile to) of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate (H8130 sane, To hate, detest, be hostile to). (ESV)

78.4.19 Journal <2025-10-29 Wed>

I confess that Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten Son of God and that God does adopt children through their faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus' Father is Father God. This is Jesus saying in part that He's "the" Son of God. But Jesus said many things and did many works which make testimony to Him being **the** Son of God, the Son of Man, even to being God (I AM), to being "one with God" (He and the Father are One). And I affirm that:

John 8:53-54 - Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be? Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God. (ESV)

I think that Jesus affirms His Kingship here. But I'm not an expert on the Greek. Often the Bible translations say, "It is as you say." where it seems to be literally "You have said so". Anyway, I do trust and affirm that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the King of Kings, the King of the Jews, Jehovah Son of Jehovah God:

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

Mark 15:2 - And Pilate asked him, Are you the King of the Jews? And he answered him, You have said so. (ESV)

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we may become sons of God:

John 1:12-13 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (ESV)

Galatians 3:25-26 - But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. (ESV)

We must be "in Christ Jesus" and we must have faith in Jesus Christ. We must abide in Jesus' commandments (in Christ) and we must have faith in Jesus Christ, and having faith in Jesus Christ is one of His commandments. This faith in Jesus Christ in order to be in Christ must also necessitate the love for the truth. Jesus' commandments depend on the Great 2 commandments:

Galatians 3:27 - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (ESV)

Luke 20:34-36 - And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

78.4.20 Journal <2025-10-31 Fri>

Father God testified of Jesus, calling Jesus His Son:

Mark 1:11 - And a voice came from heaven, You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (ESV)

A lot of other people confessed that Jesus the Son of God:

John 1:34 - And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. (ESV)

John 1:49 - Nathanael answered him, Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel! (ESV)

Holy Spirit has testified that Jesus Christ is the Son of God:

Romans 1:4 - and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, (ESV)

Romans 8:11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (ESV)

Romans 5:5 - and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (ESV)

II Corinthians 1:22 - and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (ESV)

What's quoted in the New Testament from Jesus is that Jesus spoke with His physical mouth that God is His Father.

If we take the word "literal" to mean "literal meaning", then yes, Jesus has said that He's Father God's 'son' in John 8:54.

John 8:54 - Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, He is our God. (ESV)

If we take the word "literal" to mean "literal meaning", then Jesus claims to be the Son of God, as in **the Only-Begotten Son of God** in John 8:28 by claiming to be the Son of Man if we connect that to Daniel 7:13:

John 8:28 - So Jesus said to them, When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. (ESV)

Daniel 7:13 - I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (ESV)

Is it recorded in the New Testament that Jesus said "verbatim" "I am the Son of God" (*Huios tou Theou eimi*) but it is part of a question and in the English in isolation it could be read as merely a question without actually affirming it:

John 10:35-36 - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God? (ESV)

So Jesus has both literally (same meaning, no metaphor) said that He is the Son of God, and verbatim (without necessarily affirming the words in the same words) "I am the Son of God" (but He might have been).

Does the New Testament record Jesus at the same time both literally and verbatim speaking "I am the Son of God?" ("Huios tou Theou eimi") in affirming it as truth? That is a question I cannot answer with certainty. I'd literally have to know Jesus' heart at that exact moment He said what He said and there are things which Jesus has spoken which are not written down.

I believe that God is good. I do not believe that God is evil. I truly believe that Jesus Christ God's Son is good and Father God Jehovah is good.

If a person were to ask me "why" I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Only-Begotten Son, one of the reasons is because I think His works were agape-loving and good, obedient and faithful to Father God.

I think that's important because in examining whether or not I really believe, I think that believing Jesus Christ is the Son of God would involve believing that He is good as Father God is good, that He practiced righteousness. Like Father, like Son. And I like the person of Jesus Christ. I think He is good and He's Righteous. Jesus Christ is more righteous than me, that's for sure. Jesus Christ is perfectly obedient and always does and always ever did the will of Father God. Jesus Christ is insurpassable righteousness.

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 *pepisteukotas*: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my

own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

II Corinthians 13:5-8 - Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

I don't know what Jesus had in mind then He spoke the words 'You (G4771 Hymeis) say (G3004 legete) that (G3754 hoti) I (G1473 egō) am (G1510 eimi)', according to the writer of Luke, and I don't know Biblical Hebrew. But I find it amazing that through even the testimony of others, and through the testimony of Father God, and through the prophets, and through the works, and through everything that He did, so many people came to believe that He is God's Only Begotten Son but I do believe the Scripture and I believe the testimony of the Apostles. I trust that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, I hope in it and I believe it and I hope and trust in Jesus:

Luke 22:70-71 - And they all said, "Are You the Son of God, then?" And He said to them, "Yes, I am." Then they said, "What further need do we have of testimony? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth." (NASB)

Luke 22:70-71 - So they all said, Are you the Son of God, then? And he said to them, You say that I am. Then they said, What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips. (ESV)

Luke 22:70-71 - And they all said, 'Thou, then, art the Son of God?' and he said unto them, 'Ye say it , because I am;' and they said, 'What need yet have we of testimony? for we ourselves did hear it from his mouth.' (YLT)

The verses which follow clearly demonstrate that Jesus Christ is affirming that He is God's Son. They also show that having faith that Jesus is the Son of God is essentially related and perhaps equivalent to having faith that Jesus is in the Father and the Father in Jesus. And with Father God's works, Jesus Christ's works, Father God's testimony, and the confession of other people, all available, we are instructed by Jesus to either trust Jesus' words, or believe on the account of the works. Yes, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Father God dwelling in Jesus was doing His works, and I believe that Jesus and Father God are One.:

John 14:10-12 - Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (ESV)

John 10:9-14 - I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, (ESV)

78.4.21 Journal <2025-11-04 Tue>

So this morning I wake up to a voice which just tells me "we love you, no matter what you do" and a dream of walking around an empty university which still had its internet running.

But the word of God says this:

I John 4:8 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (ESV)

I John 4:16 - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (ESV)

I John 4:10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

II John 1:6 - And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. (ESV)

II Timothy 2:12 - if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; (ESV)

James 4:4 - You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (ESV)

Information is different than the physical food because it affects the mind and heart when believed. If someone ingests AI generated lies and believes them, and confess it it, they are defiled by it. If it goes through the mind and heart and a person believes it, they are defiled by it.

Mark 7:18-20 - And he said to them, Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled? (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, What comes out of a person is what defiles him. (ESV)

And we're cleaned by trusting and loving what is true:

John 15:3 - Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (ESV)

Essentially what is going on with this massive push for ASI (artificial super intelligence) is this. Evil people stubbornly resisting Jesus want to be their own god, they want to be on the throne of their own heart. They don't want the wisdom that is Jesus Christ. They don't want to come under Jesus' Lordship, they don't want to humble themselves and confess Jesus, they don't to come to Jesus, but would prefer to build their own "golden calf" which they can put their attention on, see with their natural eyes, without needing to deal with sin, come to know and see Jesus.

I John 3:6 - No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. (ESV)

God loves us and He gave us free will to receive His salvation from sin through Jesus Christ our Lord who's commandments we abide in. And God loves us so He lets people choose to go to hell if they want to. In rejecting Christ, God hands them over to an eternity without Christ. So people get their heart's desire.

God "gives people up" to the lusts of their hearts:

Romans 1:21-32 - For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore **God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity**, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because **they exchanged the**

truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV)

I certainly, wholeheartedly, and without reservation pass judgement on people who are trying to replace God and human beings with robots. I know God's judgement will fall on those who by their unrighteous idolatry and insatiable greed suppress the truth of God and exploit human beings, and those who imbibe on that AI generated stuff will receive what is due for it. I have no reservations about this judgement. I think that anyone who wants to live in that cesspit future where technology tramples over all that is sacred, can spend their eternity being consumed by it. And anyone who would rather have God should be able to be sanctified and go to be with God instead.

Romans 2:1-3 - Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? (ESV)

Revelation of John 21:27 - But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (ESV)

II Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)

AGI is essentially trying to replace human beings with technology. ASI is trying to replace God with technology. But to force people to imbibe on and be indoctrinated by this AGI and ASI stuff I think is worthy of condemnation.

Romans 14:15 - For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. (ESV)

Romans 14:23 - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)

Work is God's gift to man that they may have joy in their labours. And crushing people's spirits through automation is not right:

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 - I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. (ESV)

Romans 11:29 - For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (ESV)

I Corinthians 9:9-10 - For it is written in the Law of Moses, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. (ESV)

This generative AI stuff. To use an analogy, learning from AI generated material is like feeding on the collective feces of the human race. And to put an eternal spin on this, being led by AI won't take a person to Father God. Jesus is the only way to Father God. Being led by artificial intelligence entails not being led by the Spirit of Christ.

Anything that tries to force it on to me I rebuke in the Mighty name of Jesus Christ.

78.4.22 Journal <2025-11-04 Tue>

I had some really nice interactions and conversations with people on the street and at my Bible study.

Another cool thing I noticed theologically today is the "faith and love" pattern fits Abraham's justification. Abraham was justified by faith when He believed God and it was counted as righteousness. And when Abraham was justified by works, God tested His heart for love and fear of God (which are highly related).

Thinking over the beauty of justification by faith in Jesus, Jesus being worthy to be resurrected from the dead and worthy to be Lord, and how confessing that Jesus is the Son of God carries with it an acknowledgement that He is worthy to have that title and confessing Jesus is Lord, likewise, there is a beautiful elegance to God's wisdom.

And I had real joy in contemplating God and theology today, and some amazing fellowship with a bunch of people who have faith in and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ESV)

In the evening I have felt like God has been cleaning me. I just feel this warm fire of cleansing over my body. I hope this trend continues.

I pray that people come to repentance.

John 10:25-30 - Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one. (ESV)

78.4.23 Journal <2025-11-05 Wed>

Psalms 127:1 - Unless the LORD (3068. Yhv - Phonetic Spelling: (yeh-ho-vaw'), Meaning: Jehovah) builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (ESV)

78.4.24 Journal <2025-11-06 Thu>

Last night I googled for "can a person legally run mac os 7" and this search result stuck out as if it shouldn't even belong in the results and I had a look over it.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>

I think that AI should not be used to replace human workers in any way, and that AI should stick to "running in the background" of society doing menial tasks that humans don't want to do. And humans do want jobs. Just because something **can** be done with automation doesn't mean it should be done with automation. Studying human beings to automate them is a form of terrorism. Forcing human beings to treat robots like humans (to think of them as peers) is a form of terrorism, and very much against Jesus' teachings.

Galatians 5:14 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (ESV)

I John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (ESV)

People should stick to studying something else with their computers, rather than human beings in order to automate tasks that belong to humans. Chatbots are not people. Innovation should not be allowed to trample over human beings, and for what end? It's driven by greed. Who is in political power except people who have lots of money? The Kingdom of God is about serving one another through love, and rather than wealth redistribution, this drive to "innovate" with AI is driven by the love of money and is therefore, anti-God, and it tramples over human beings. It's an atheistic pursuit. The people who are in power in the Kingdom of God are actually the poor. It's a spiritual kingdom.

But we should not let our minds be coerced by the evil generation that is the 'world' that we are called to separate from (Biblical separation. i.e. while there might not be physical distancing, we distance ourselves by applied holy living).

It grieves me where there is a push to integrate robots into society and give them roles and rights which should only be given to a human.

And ASI stuff is an abomination, straight up. I want nothing to do with the "Golden [Calf] Age". People who are trying to build ASI are disbelievers and under the control of the evil one.

Early this morning, I was attacked by evil spirits again. I rebuke it in Jesus Christ's name.

Sadly, more spiritual defilement affecting my body sexually and attacking my mind, waking me up etc. t

Sorry for the TMI (too much information). If I'm getting attacked, I'm not going to sweep it under the rug. I'm going to deal with it with God's help. I got so aroused by whatever was attacking me I had to relieve myself. I have felt disgusting this entire morning as a consequence. It's demonic. I'll keep fighting against it. It's basically spiritual rape what's been happening to me. And laying there, knowing I'm under attack, as these voices intrude into my mind, I am fight against them trying to sing the lyrics of "onward Christian soldiers" and having some satanic thing trying to force into my mind "'online' Christian soldiers", and when confessing sin to God in my mind, having this demonic voice say (can't remember the exact words) something like, "don't confess sin, confessing sin is for the weak", getting mocking dreams and voices in my head in the morning. And also these voices putting antichrist thoughts in my head (stuff that attacks the person of Jesus Christ).

For the love of God, the spiritual attacks need to stop. Jesus Christ needs to do something about it.

OK, rant time about AI, since I've had a read over the document that came out of the White House regarding the AI Action Plan. People should be able to have joy in their profession and be able to progress to become artisans and refine their art and craft, and have joy in their work.

As an analogy, consider handwriting. Not much technology is required but the skill can be developed and honed, and that's a nice thing.

Some innovations do not make life better, but actually they destroy culture.

To make a computer science analogy, you don't always use QuickSort but sometimes you resort to a simpler algorithm such as InsertionSort because, although InsertionSort is a simpler algorithm that doesn't scale as well for all problems, it's the best algorithm for the job in some cases. In a similar fashion, it's not a good idea to "throw AI at everything".

To make a movie analogy, the movie Last Samurai. The culture of the samurai was sophisticated and the people were happy, and then the innovation from the westerners influenced the government and trampled over their culture, but the simpler samurai lifestyle was better, especially for that small society. It didn't need the "big tech" of it's day.

It's important to allow people to "learn and mature at a natural pace" rather than continually gaslight (undermine the sanity of) and force updates and change onto people.

A person can feel rich with very few possessions and not much technology if they are given time to have mastery over what they have. There's no need to force change on people, to hammer new technology into them if they are happy and content. If people are happy and not under stress, how nice would that be and how many problems would that solve?

- People should able to rest.

- People should be able to have hope for the future.
- People should be able to live in a way that the Bible says is pleasing to God.

How can anyone have peace if they're not able to function as God designed them to function?

The American economy being driven by AI for profit is a very scary thought, and a reality by the sounds of it. The AI problem is different to previous problems. AI **needs** to be altruistic. If AI is not developed with real goals for improving the lives of other people, instead of say, just trying to make something that achieves some technological feat, then it shouldn't be developed at all, in my opinion.

If it isn't good will and altruism that are the core reasons for developing any AI technology, then I don't think said technology should be developed at all.

If the core heuristic of what makes technology performant is not, say, overcoming problems that human beings want to be solved, then whatever it is that the AI is optimising for over time is going to be misaligned with the goals of people at large. If the core heuristic for what AI projects to fund is whether or not they lead to "AI supremacy" or to profit, then I think that it's an evil pursuit. Seeking "AI supremacy" is almost synonymous with seeking to dominate the wills of other people. Literally, Sauron, One Ring stuff. Seeking "AI for profit" is almost synonymous with building the Matrix and devaluing people.

Human beings are not to be valued according to how much money they can make. I don't care how sophisticated a robot is, it's never worth more than a person.

Chatbots being integrated into the fabric of society is an indication of the end times, as it's an indication of the devaluing of people, and a lack of Biblical love.

Matthew 24:12 - And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. (ESV)

There is the illusion that something can even be done with automation when in reality it can't, but people might not be able to see why it can't, but it's actually impossible to be done with automation.

- Getting born-again of the spirit can't be done with automation.
- Entering the Kingdom of God can't be done with automation.
- Praying to God can't be done with automation.
- Repentance can't be done with automation.
- The duty of a priest can't be done with automation.
- The duty of a marriage partner can't be done with automation.
- The duty to God and one's neighbour can't be done with automation.
- The steadfast love of God can't be done with automation.
- Trusting in God can't be done with automation.
- There are things that are impossible to do with automation and must be fulfilled by human beings.

So therefore, we've got to be really careful with technology to not infringe on the sacred. God, the Rock of Ages can't be replaced by automation. ASI can't take the role. ASI can't do the job.

When people say Jehovah or Yahweh I recognise both of those as referring to God's proper name given to Moses. I never heard the phonemes directly from God but God sees my heart. If there was currently issue with using precise phonemes, then I'm sure God would clear that up. Jehovah and Yahweh both really are referring to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and refer to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus, Yeshua or Iesous also refer to Christ, the Son and I believe that Jesus' name also belongs to Father God. I also wanted to reiterate my stance on this because there have been several phenomena occurring in my life in the last weeks where God's name has appeared in a dream and people taking the name when I'm playing a video game, and also in conversations with people. There's stuff going on with me and that is why I'm confessing my stance on this right here in my journal.

Exodus 6:3 (Interlinear) and I appear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; as to My name Jehovah, I have not been known to them;

78.4.25 Journal <2025-11-07 Fri>

I had a bit of a read over Pope Leo XIII's document today. It's worth a read.

I also don't want to rule out any possible good intentions in the "AI action plan". I haven't changed my stance though. I haven't said "AI technologies are altogether evil" but I have said that certain things should not be automated, and faith and love for God and our neighbour needs to be the guiding principles for the economy. If this is misaligned, then it's going to be much worse than children giving up their entire childhood to slave in a cotton mill. It's going to be much, much worse.

vatican.va rerum-novarum.html: Rerum Novarum { May 15 , 1891 } RERUM NOVARUM - EN-CYCLICAL OF POPE LEO XIII - ON CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Given at St. Peter's in Rome, the fifteenth day of May, 1891, the fourteenth year of Our pontificate. LEO XIII

22. Therefore, those whom fortune favors are warned that riches do not bring freedom from sorrow and are of no avail for eternal happiness, but rather are obstacles; (9) that the rich should tremble at the threatenings of Jesus Christ - threatenings so unwonted in the mouth of our Lord (10) - and that a most strict account must be given to the Supreme Judge for all we possess. The chief and most excellent rule for the right use of money is one the heathen philosophers hinted at, but which the Church has traced out clearly, and has not only made known to men's minds, but has impressed upon their lives. It rests on the principle that it is one thing to have a right to the possession of money and another to have a right to use money as one wills. Private ownership, as we have seen, is the natural right of man, and to exercise that right, especially as members of society, is not only lawful, but absolutely necessary. "It is lawful," says St. Thomas Aquinas, "for a man to hold private property; and it is also necessary for the carrying on of human existence." But if the question be asked: How must one's possessions be used? - the Church replies without hesitation in the words of the same holy Doctor: "Man should not consider his material possessions as his own, but as common to all, so as to share them without hesitation when others are in need. Whence the Apostle with, 'Command the rich of this world... to offer with no stint, to apportion largely.'" (12) True, no one is commanded to distribute to others that which is required for his own needs and those of his household; nor even to give away what is reasonably required to keep up becomingly his condition in life, "for no one ought to live other than becomingly." (13) But, when what necessity demands has been supplied, and one's standing fairly taken thought for, it becomes a duty to give to the indigent out of what remains over. "Of that which remaineth, give alms." (14) It is a duty, not of justice (save in extreme cases), but of Christian charity - a duty not enforced by human law. But the laws and judgments of men must yield place to the laws and judgments of Christ the true God, who in many ways urges on His followers the practice of almsgiving - 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'; (15) and who will count a kindness done or refused to the poor as done or refused to Himself - "As long as you did it to one of My least brethren you did it to Me." (16) To sum up, then, what has been said: Whoever has received from the divine bounty a large share of temporal blessings, whether they be external and material, or gifts of the mind, has received them for the purpose of using them for the perfecting of his own nature, and, at the same time, that he may employ them, as the steward of God's providence, for the benefit of others. "He that hath a talent," said St. Gregory the Great, "let him see that he hide it not; he that hath abundance, let him quicken himself to mercy and generosity; he that hath art and skill, let him do his best to share the use and the utility hereof with his neighbor." (17)

...

35. We have said that the State must not absorb the individual or the family; both should be allowed free and untrammeled action so far as is consistent with the common good and the interest of others. Rulers should, nevertheless, anxiously safeguard the community and all its

members; the community, because the conservation thereof is so emphatically the business of the supreme power, that the safety of the commonwealth is not only the first law, but it is a government's whole reason of existence; and the members, because both philosophy and the Gospel concur in laying down that the object of the government of the State should be, not the advantage of the ruler, but the benefit of those over whom he is placed. As the power to rule comes from God, and is, as it were, a participation in His, the highest of all sovereignties, it should be exercised as the power of God is exercised - with a fatherly solicitude which not only guides the whole, but reaches also individuals.

...

42. If we turn now to things external and material, the first thing of all to secure is to save unfortunate working people from the cruelty of men of greed, who use human beings as mere instruments for money-making. It is neither just nor human so to grind men down with excessive labor as to stupefy their minds and wear out their bodies. Man's powers, like his general nature, are limited, and beyond these limits he cannot go. His strength is developed and increased by use and exercise, but only on condition of due intermission and proper rest. Daily labor, therefore, should be so regulated as not to be protracted over longer hours than strength admits. How many and how long the intervals of rest should be must depend on the nature of the work, on circumstances of time and place, and on the health and strength of the workman. Those who work in mines and quarries, and extract coal, stone and metals from the bowels of the earth, should have shorter hours in proportion as their labor is more severe and trying to health. Then, again, the season of the year should be taken into account; for not unfrequently a kind of labor is easy at one time which at another is intolerable or exceedingly difficult. Finally, work which is quite suitable for a strong man cannot rightly be required from a woman or a child. And, in regard to children, great care should be taken not to place them in workshops and factories until their bodies and minds are sufficiently developed. For, just as very rough weather destroys the buds of spring, so does too early an experience of life's hard toil blight the young promise of a child's faculties, and render any true education impossible. Women, again, are not suited for certain occupations; a woman is by nature fitted for home-work, and it is that which is best adapted at once to preserve her modesty and to promote the good bringing up of children and the well-being of the family. As a general principle it may be laid down that a workman ought to have leisure and rest proportionate to the wear and tear of his strength, for waste of strength must be repaired by cessation from hard work.

In all agreements between masters and work people there is always the condition expressed or understood that there should be allowed proper rest for soul and body. To agree in any other sense would be against what is right and just; for it can never be just or right to require on the one side, or to promise on the other, the giving up of those duties which a man owes to his God and to himself.

78.4.26 Journal <2025-11-15 Sat>

youtube.com: Ex - Microsoft Research Podcaster Explains AI {@ 100hunlty } I commented: I appreciate how she mentioned the Great commandments and Jesus' commandments, because AGI can be thought of as devaluing people and ASI (artificial super intelligence), like a "golden calf". That's the 2 great commandments being violated there. As agape love, the love which Jesus calls us to have is one which values God and people, especially our family in Christ and is willing to lay down our life for other people. And the AGI stuff (trying to reverse engineer humans and replacing them) devalues humans, not to mention the insidious theft of it, stealing a person's likeness or creative work and calling it "transformative". Devaluing humans is the opposite of treasuring them.

78.4.27 Journal <2025-11-16 Sun>

It seems like I have been made me born-again and forced into a world where greedy people rather than giving up their worldly treasure to love other people in deed, hold onto their money and try to offload the duty of keeping Jesus' commandments to technology, devaluing people and pursuing this 'Golden Calf' of ASI and this has created a bit of a living hell for most of the people on planet earth. To leave me in this situation and under huge amounts of spiritual attack while not giving me the testimony of Jesus Christ from Holy Spirit after getting born-again is absolutely criminal.

I still receive immense amounts of spiritual attack - dream attacks, continually at night time. Broken sleeps every night with lewd (sexually lewd), homosexual, blasphemous, antichrist dreams, and when I wake up from them I also am hit with this defilement attacking my soul, making me aroused. When I am sitting down or laying on my bed, I very often and even as I am writing this, feel a defilement which is messing with my genitals, and often what feels like a ghost pressing into my mouth.

I want my complaint to go straight to throne room of God Almighty and sit at His feet day and night, every moment, always, to eternity or until He chooses to do something about it. May Jesus Christ do something about it and may He fulfill His promises. Because what has happened to me and continues to happen to me is worthy of condemnation. This ongoing spiritual oppression is satanic. Now, God has made promises. Jesus Christ has made promises. The Scripture gives promises, promises that sanctification will be brought to completion, and promises that if anyone abides in Jesus Christ's word, then Father God and Jesus Christ the Son of God will manifest to that person, and the Holy Spirit will bear testimony of Him (Jesus Christ).

A god who lies is not God at all so I have hope that Jesus will fulfill His promises and sanctify me completely and give me the promised testimony of Himself from Holy Spirit. Because as of this moment I have not heard the testimony of Jesus Christ from Holy Spirit directly speaking inside of my heart. I have read the Scripture and believed the Scripture and I trust in God's word in the Scripture, even the testimony of Holy Spirit about Jesus Christ because Jesus was raised from the dead, but that is not the same type of testimony which is promised in the Scripture. That is me trusting the written word, trusting the Scripture. But what the Scripture also promises is that Jesus Christ will manifest. And the Scripture also promises that Holy Spirit would be **in** me and testify that I'm a child of God and will testify of Jesus Christ, and will cry "Abba Father" from my heart.

When I am receiving demonic dreams continually where I have satanic voices manifesting, then that is from a different spirit. What I'm hearing at night time with these antichrist, anti-repentance, lewd, anti-agape love of the truth, anti-holiness dreams, visions, voices, etc., these lying dreams and voices and pictures, is not from God, and is most certainly not the voice of the Holy Spirit.

What I want to hear is the voice of Holy Spirit.

My complaint rests with God, to eternity or to whenever He delivers me. God has made promises regarding deliverance from evil, sanctification and the voice of Holy Spirit which I'm hoping in. I'm not content with my situation. I'm not content with the satanic oppression I have received. My faithful God must do something about it immediately. What happens to me is a testimony of what happens to a person who is following the Lord Jesus Christ from the heart out of love for Jesus Christ. What I've so far endured is an injustice and it's absolutely criminal and whatever the source of the demonic attacks is destined for destruction. Whoever has put this satanic oppression on me I condemn. I hope there is a good reason for what I've been made to endure, but I don't know what it is. I don't want to deceive people. I'm trying my best to do my duty as a follower of Jesus to point people to the Truth. I'm going to write down what is happening to me. And if God delivers me for His glory to prove His trustworthiness, I'll most certainly let people know. Until then, I continue to put my trust in Jesus Christ, though it is me giving Him the benefit of the doubt.

78.4.28 Journal <2025-11-17 Mon>

People who are saved are people who have come to love truth rather than falsehood. That is one way to describe a saved person. When they hear more of the truth, they embrace it. So they might still have sin issues but prefer God to evil. And agreeing that Jesus is the Son of God entails believing God was just in raising Him from the dead. It's important to cling, love, treasure this truth and persevere in the love of (treasuring of) the truth, in the agape love of God. If something contradicts God's Word then it is incorrect so we must be able to be corrected by God. We can be confident we are of the truth because we love God's truth and do God's commandments.

John 18:37 - Then Pilate said to him, So you are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (ESV)

I John 3:18-19 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; (ESV)

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)

There's a lot of heresy that floats around. People cling to, trust in things that are not true. People sometimes use one truth to refute another truth in their own mind, and they delude themselves. So our hearts need to be soft enough to be corrected. We need to be teachable by God.

I John 4:15 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (ESV)

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (ESV)

I John 3:24 - Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

II John 1:9 - Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (ESV)

Psalms 119:140 - Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. (ESV)

John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

Matthew 22:37-40 - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

If a person has come to love the Truth in their heart, if they have repented, the world who is in darkness will probably try to deny it and hold a false view of that person:

I John 3:1 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (ESV)

God sees the heart. No-one can cheat God. God sees everything:

Jeremiah 20:12 - O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. (ESV)

John 2:24-25 - But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. (ESV)

Romans 2:15-16 - They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (ESV)

These words remain true:

Ezekiel 18:20-32 - The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die. Yet you say, The way of the Lord is not just. Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, The way of the Lord is not just. O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. (ESV)

John 3:3-8 - Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (ESV)

John 15:10-24 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another. If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. (ESV)

78.4.29 Journal <2025-11-18 Tue>

Some thoughts I had this morning after getting a dream of me talking to someone from a Baptist church. In this dream it was depicted of them that they asked me "is a person permanently saved forever if it was only for

a moment that they believed". And in this dream I had said, "Yes." And they also asked, "Why?" And in this dream I quoted / paraphrased, rather, several scriptures. Though now that I've awoken from that dream, I want to clarify my stance on this from Scripture, as I wasn't happy with the entire dream conversation. It seemed to have errors in it. So this is me clarifying my current position:

A person **can** fall away from the faith after first coming to believe.

Luke 8:13 - And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

A person **must** come to not only have faith in the truth but also **love** the truth:

John 8:31-47 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed (G4100 pepisteukotas: having believed 'V-RPA-AMP past tense') in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

As **Ezekiel 18:20-32** clearly shows and as Jesus also says, a person is able to repent. A person is able to come into agreement with God and love the truth and forsake sin.

Luke 13:3 - No, I tell you; but unless you repent (3340. metanoeō), you will all likewise perish. (ESV)

We have to abide in Jesus Christ's commandments through faith and obedience, and with perseverance.

Hebrews 3:12-19 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an **evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God**. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For **we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who were those who heard and yet rebelled?

Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.** (ESV)

In obedience we must abide in Jesus Christ's love, actually exercising it ourselves from our heart. We must not only hold our faith in Jesus Christ, but we must love Him and be keeping His commandments. We must be presently trusting and loving Jesus Christ, and continuing to abide in Jesus' commandments.

I John 3:23-24 - And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (ESV)

We must be keepers of Jesus Christ's law and the faith which we have in Him must not violate the 2 Great Commandments:

Matthew 7:23-24 - And then will I declare to them, **I never knew you;** depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

John 14:21 - Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (ESV)

I John 3:2-4 - Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)

Now to bring up John 11. This says whoever is "believing..." (G4100 *pisteuōn*, is believing, is trusting). So a person has to have died while trusting in Jesus Christ (see in John 11) and then continue going on trusting in Jesus Christ, continuing to trust Jesus Christ, in order to "by no means" die. So we **must** be abiding presently in Jesus Christ's commandments. We must be trusting before and after and during this "death" that we die.

And it's God's role to give eternal life.

I don't want to overspecify things to the point where it seems like I'm the one saying who is saved. I don't want to lean on my own understanding.

Disclaimer Also, I need God to for the love of Jesus Christ deliver me from the satanic intrusive dreams and other demonic harassment, and clean up my soul from all the defilement which I'm blaming on being put under demonic oppression after I was born-again for a very extended amount of time. And I'd like God to please give me the promised testimony from Holy Spirit so that I know when to trust a dream or a vision, etc. I just want to clarify that because God needs to make the first move so that I can be led. Everything is on the backburner until God fulfills His promises which He has promised. I'm continually sacrificing good things while Jesus lets the devil rob me and lets the 'locusts' (Joel 2:25) attack me continually, all because I'm waiting on Jesus Christ to fulfill His promises and can't make particular moves without Jesus' faithfulness in particular things. What's not done in faith is sin after all, so there are things I need to wait for Jesus to do before I have confidence to speak about or confidence to do because I don't want to be in the driver's seat. I want to be led by Jesus, not feeling like I'm being 'played' by the devil continually.

OK, disclaimer given.

So if a person is not continuing to trust in Jesus Christ or love Him by abiding in His commandments then they are presently a disbeliever and presently condemned. A saved person can be described by attributes. One of them is preferring God to evil. A person who is saved loves the truth and prefers God to evil.

I do not think is correct to say that **every** person who has "belief" no matter how well sown the word is (i.e. disregarding Jesus' parable about the sower) can't "fall away" from the faith. Clearly there are examples of people from Jesus' parable who lost their faith.

Even the Apostle Paul shows it's important to hold one's faith and a good conscience because some people have made a shipwreck of their faith by rejecting this advice. In other words, if a person's faith were likened to a ship, that ship crashed and was **very severely damaged** and ruined and the Apostle Paul thought it necessary for them to learn not to blaspheme by being handed over to satan. And blasphemy is when a person is bringing dishonour to God's name, to God's reputation by committing sin.

I Timothy 1:18-20 - This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (ESV)

The fact is, if a person has disbelieved, they still have opportunity to repent (change their mind), so long as they are not dead and in Hades with an unbelieving heart. And Jesus conquered death by the way. Jesus went down there into the place of the dead (I Peter 3:18-20) and if someone who is dead hears His voice with a believing heart then they live but I'm quite sure the idea is that we need to have that faith in Jesus Christ so that when we do die (and I'm confident that refers to the spiritual baptism) we are raised to life with Him. A person may go through this death to life, perhaps in baptism, or just suddenly when God does it (it happened to me on 2 April 2022).

People who had that believing heart who had died before Jesus was crucified would have then heard and accepted Jesus' voice when He went into death, and those people would live.

A person needs a faith that is accompanied with agape love for the truth that treasures that truth and is so deeply rooted in the heart that it can't be removed. We need a law-abiding faith.

John 3:16-21 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. **But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.** (ESV)

But someone who has died and is presently holding their law-abiding (non-idolatrous, family in Christ-loving, neighbour-loving) faith in Jesus Christ shall by no means die. AMEN!! And if someone isn't satisfied with that verbiage, then they are probably satan trying to get me to endorse some kind of "lawless, antinomian, Marcionite faith".

John 11:25-27 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes (G4100 *pisteuōn*, is believing, is trusting) in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes (G4100 *pisteuōn*, is believing, is trusting) in me shall never (or "by no means" (G3756)) (G3361)) die. Do you believe this? She said to him, Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world. (ESV)

ou mé Not at all, never, by no means. G3756 (- no) and G3361 (- no)] a double negative strengthening the denial, "not at all" Strong's Exhaustive Concordance anymore, at all, neither, never

I'd say, "once saved always saved while doing the will of God".

I believe in 'once saved, always saved, while doing the will of God'. So someone must be both a believer and a follower of Jesus. We must have Jesus as our number one agape love, treasuring Him, obeying His commandments, particularly to believe in Him and love one another as He loved us.

Hebrews 7:23-25 - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost **those who draw near to God through him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (ESV)

I John 2:17 - And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

I Corinthians 10:7-12 - Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents**, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore **let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.** (ESV)

Want to not die anymore? Have you considered never marrying?

Luke 20:34-36 - And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but **those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.** (ESV)

Revelation of John 14:1-5 - Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. (ESV)

It's not a sin to marry. But marriage between man and woman is an earthly covenant. A match made in heaven, sure. But meant for the duration of time on earth and no longer.

So much for an overly simplified "once saved always saved" because the way some people take it, it would make "once condemned always condemned" seem reasonable.

John 3:14-19 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: **but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than (G3123 mallon, rather/more than, in preference to, instead of) light, because their deeds were evil. (KJV)

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (ESV)

Jesus' sheep (those who trust and obey Jesus and love Jesus) will never perish.

John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (ESV)

So we must continue being Jesus' sheep. We must trust and obey Jesus Christ:

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

Peter obeyed Jesus to come to Jesus: By faith Peter obeyed Jesus and came to Jesus. So Father God must have drawn him. But the fact that Father God does the drawing doesn't mean that he didn't by faith obey Jesus in order to come to Jesus:

Matthew 14:28-29 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. (ESV)

John 6:43-48 - Jesus answered them, Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. (ESV)

Saying "no one will snatch them out of my hand" doesn't mean people can not wilfully turn their back on Jesus. But we must not be like the type of people who would turn their back on Jesus. We must be people who treasure and love Jesus:

John 6:66 - After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

The person who has stopped committing sin wouldn't reject Jesus. A person who has stopped sinning would be doing everything in faith and everything in a lawful love of God and one's neighbour. A person who can have confidence is someone who believe they agape love their family in Christ in reality according to God's commandments for us.

I John 5:2 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (ESV)

I John 4:17 - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (ESV)

I John 3:15-21 - Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (ESV)

John 15:9-14 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.** (ESV)

To continue being Jesus' sheep, we must abide in Jesus Christ's commandments lawfully, that is while not breaking the 2 Great commandments.

Matthew 22:36-40 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)

Luke 9:62 - Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (ESV)

To be saved "permanently" would be to no longer commit sin, be practicing righteousness and to have inherited the kingdom of God:

John 8:31-36 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered him, We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, You will become free? Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

I Peter 4:1-5 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (ESV)

Matthew 25:33-37 - And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? (ESV)

I Corinthians 5:1-13 - Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

The Bible verse that has come to mind today:

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are **being sanctified.** (ESV)

OK, so if a person has presently the law-abiding faith then they are trusting and obeying Jesus Christ and, therefore, in the grand scheme of things, that person has been perfected (i.e. that person's sanctification will be completed). If a person's faith is not law-abiding then actions done out of that are not done in faith (real faith) or not done in a non-idolatrous (I Peter 4:3 says idolatry is unlawful, abominable) agape love for God and their neighbour and that type of faith, not being love for the Truth, is not the faith of a son or daughter of God.

<2025-12-05 Fri> What is not done in faith is sin (Romans 14:23, James 4:17). What is not done in law-abiding agape love is also sin (Matthew 22:36-40, I John 3:4). Christians should imitating the love of Jesus Christ, trusting God will take care of them, doing good and refusing to harm others (Ecclesiastes 7:16,

Romans 13:10, I Peter 4:19, I Peter 2:23) according to God's commandments for us (I John 5:2). God has taught through His word what doing no harm to one's neighbour looks like. We are instructed to share the gospel in the following of and the imitation of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34-36) and the passing on of Jesus' teachings and commandments, discipling others (Matthew 28:18-20).

A child of God (a son or daughter of God) has Jesus Christ as their Master, not sin, and they abide in Jesus Christ. Whoever commits sin does not remain in the house (God's house) forever. The son remains forever.

John 8:35 - The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (ESV)

Galatians 4:3-9 - In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I Corinthians 8:3 - But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (ESV)

I John 4:21 - And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (ESV)

Matthew 7:22-23 - On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (ESV)

Jesus Christ certainly remains forever along with all who have ceased to commit sin. To get to the point of no longer committing sin, we trust and obey Jesus Christ - in trusting and obeying Jesus Christ, we purify ourselves. If anyone is doing that presently then there is a point from their perspective at which sanctification is completed. God is outside of time, and just like the way in which in the fullness of time God sent Jesus Christ to redeem those who were under the law, and God's propitiation for sin is for those going backwards through history as well, a person who has the salvific, sanctifying, law-abiding faith in God which actively trusts and readily obeys Jesus Christ has a point in their future at which sanctification will be brought to completion for them.

Galatians 4:3-9 - In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? (ESV)

I Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

78.4.30 Journal <2025-11-20 Thu>, <2025-11-21 Fri>

Despite asking God continually for deliverance, I've still been daily getting strange, lewd, antichrist, sexually immoral and adulterous, very unclean demonic dreams and other types of spiritual attacks. If God doesn't literally take a step to clean me first, as He did when washing Peter's feet, and to protect me, I don't know how I'm supposed to overcome this stuff. I believe that God washed me clean on 2 April 2022 when He gave me a new heart that feared Him and a new spirit. There has been no testimony from Holy Spirit regarding Jesus Christ

direct to my heart. I'm very demoralised. I give everything to the Lord Jesus. I gave everything to Him. But every day He allows me get harassed by demons in my sleep, and aroused in the morning, demonically. Before I was born-again, I remember being in control of my body. I was committing wilful sin back then, sure. But it felt like I was in control. Jesus would say I was a slave to sin. Now I'm in a situation where my flesh most definitely is waging war against my mind. But not only that, I'm also getting attacked spiritually in other ways. It feels like getting attacked on every front. On top of that, I've had the most unreasonable amount of theological resistance. I have had to crawl out of a pit of theological heresy and satanic resistance to the truth that I was in even before I was born-again. Prosperity gospel stuff, romance with Jesus instead of agape love for Jesus type worship music (not that romance might not have agape, because it certainly should, but it also might not. Agape is for God, and for neighbours and friends and family in Christ and is a selfless, treasuring, valuing love that doesn't want to cause harm, and abides in Jesus' commandments. Of course in a romance, that might be there. But a lot of 'worship' music out there doesn't emphasise agape at all but focuses on ancillary 'feelings' such as ecstasy but without regard for wanting to please God with our thoughts and actions and take captive every thought for obedience to Christ, or without regard for what God wants us to do. Having a desire to please God in the way we walk is a real showing of agape love. Whereas this stuff about Jesus making us feel good and forgiven but omitting say, the call to holiness or of carrying our cross. Better would be to sow God's word deep in our hearts singing scripture), really irrelevant sermons, just a lack of teaching in the churches about the fear of God, the wages of sin, obedience to Jesus, etc. I've received the most heinous amount of straight-up satanic resistance to obedience to Jesus.

tangent There is a massive delusion within many protestant churches that obedience = works (as in we are not saved by works and that includes obedience). I've even noticed it with Roman Catholics too but the other way around, but the same error, that obedience = works (i.e. we are saved by obedience and that means saved by works)! But obedience does not strictly equal works. We are saved not by our own works, but we are saved by obedience, and we are saved by faith, but they're not precisely the same thing but a person can obey out of faith (both in the heart) and produce works. The other massive issue with many protestant or pentecostal churches I have been to is that when talking about "walking in the light" as He (Jesus Christ is in the light), I almost never hear the word "love" i.e. walking in love. It always seems to be walking in the light because I'm correct because I've believed isolated parts of scripture (interpreting them from modern English dictionary definitions). It could be completely devoid of the love of God in the heart. That doesn't sound like "the word well sown in good soil" to me, their understanding contradicting other surrounding scripture, but never seems to be "I'm walking in the love of God's word, in the love for my family in Christ, the same type of love Jesus showed us, trusting and obeying Jesus Christ's commandments".

And then when I got born-again of the spirit, I realised something very special has happened and I wanted to tell everyone. But being literally a new-born Christian theologically, but mature in having received a new spirit after seeking God through repentance from sin (Ezekiel 18 does strengthen my case for this). It seems like I woke up into a world which does not want me to know about Jesus because as I started reading the Scripture for myself and putting it into practice, trusting and obeying the Word, I noticed huge amounts of resistance to this from the churches. Yet, if I said something that was heretical, it just seemed as though there was no correction from people at all. Satan has been continually robbing me of good things which bring me joy, even trying to attack my good conscience. Things which have made my good conscience feel compromised:

- corruption brought on in my flesh by daily demonic harassment
 - (it's been like a war of attrition against me daily. every day I get these spiritual attacks and it seems that any measure of giving into them has compounding consequences)
- awful memories of things like:
 - a court judge saying I must've been baptised at midnight and then me calling him a liar
 - the 3 May 2022 event where I was told by a spirit they are the Holy Spirit but it not coming with a testimony from same spirit confessing that Jesus Christ has come into the world in the flesh, leaving me guessing if this was Holy Spirit and any kind of assertion that it was makes me feel nauseatingly

anxious because I don't want to speak a word against Holy Spirit or affirm a spirit which is not Holy Spirit is Holy Spirit. Sadly I have not been given the testimony which I need in order to clear this issue up. I've just been left to "deal with it"

- having a church pastor try to cast antichrist spirit out of me. I was asking for prayer to be delivered from these spiritual attacks and I was saying I'm trying to be obedient to Jesus and he was telling me I was being 'religious'/legalistic and I was saying we need to obey Jesus and he started trying to cast antichrist spirit out of me
- having to crucify a marriage proposal to someone I loved
 - * and subsequently having a daily barrage of sexually immoral dreams along with these sexual spiritual attacks making me feel extremely unclean
 - even now as I sit here writing this, I feel like I'm being violated by something
- seeing sides to loved ones which I wish I could unsee forever and make me feel like permanent eternal sin is being committed and there's no getting back to purity
- daily having to deal with Jesus ignoring me and not speaking to me in the way that He promised to.

I've been brought to the point where I do not have a desire to be alive anymore in this world, but I want to have all my memories erased and to be made completely new, not just being given a new spirit. May God grant me my request. What has happened to me is unacceptable. I need to be fully restored and protected. For the sake of His name, God should restore me and protect me.

Jesus Christ, help me, God. Don't let me die. Set me free from the corruption and protect me from evil. If me and my memories and my relationships were a garment I'd probably burn it because I don't even know how I'm fixable now except to just be made new. I hate the corruption so much, the corruption which has been put onto me from outside of me has been out of my control. It has happened **to** me. May God get rid of the corruption and make me clean like when I was born-again of the spirit. No-one spoke to me to clarify anything when I needed it clarified. I wasn't prepared theologically by the church. Who baptises a person but does not teach them all that Jesus has commanded and disciple them? I think that's probably the issue, to be honest. I think it's probably extremely dangerous to baptise people without then truly discipling them to abide in Jesus Christ's teachings.

Also, in 2021, I was being criticised as delusional for my AI research. It's so similar to calling people delusional for resisting the COVID vaccines when that was being pushed into society for fear of losing friends and jobs. As I was pointing out what was around the corner regarding the AI stuff, I received this type of resistance sometimes. I would blame what happened to just people being in darkness.

And the demonic harassment I've received I'd probably liken to some sort of allergic reaction from the world from a person having been cleaned.

And after I was born-again, I think I was literally just handed over to satan to be terrorised because I'd been getting denied marriage for most of my adult life and people thought it was inappropriate when I made my first proposal, while there are at the same time people who would absolutely no issue to what's really morally wrong such as gay marriage or open relationships etc. I've been put in the most unreasonable situations where I'm being asked whether something like the marriage situation is holy, for example, but I know that what is not done in faith is sin and I need to be acting in selfless love. But these situations like with the court house feel constructed to trap me, to fork me (like in a game of chess). But I wasn't taught the truth of God's Word before or after I was born-again. I had to go to the Scripture myself. Instead I was just punished. What type of teaching is through punishment alone? I want to be set free from all corruption. I want to be spoken to by the Holy Spirit. No-one adopts a child to just leave them outside to starve and be attacked by predators. I expect so much more from God.

I woke up to more of these spiritual attacks through the night and this morning <2025-11-21 Fri>. The devil has really been trying to take me out. It is not fun. It just to be fought against with the word of God.

Titus 1:1-16 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their **knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life,**

which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must **hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine** and also to **rebuke those who contradict it**. For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

1 rebuke

2 An expression of sharp disapproval or
3 criticism.

4 "he hadn't meant it as a rebuke, but Neil
5 flinched"

Correcting others with gentleness is not against rebuking with sharpness. When it comes to bad doctrine it should be rebuked with sharpness. Also, sexual immorality should not be tolerated, but rebuked:

II Timothy 2:24-26 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them **repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.** (ESV)

Galatians 6:1 - Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. (ESV)

I Corinthians 4:21,5:1-5 - What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or **with love in a spirit of gentleness?** It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (ESV)

I Corinthians 16:14 - Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

Titus 1:12-16 - One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. This testimony is true. Therefore **rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith**, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.** (ESV)

I want to be able to commit my way to the Lord Jesus Christ without being harassed by demons.

For example, when I reneged on the proposal, I committed my way to the Lord. But following that, I received extremely frequent demonic harassment and tribulation in various forms, forcing me to be reminded of it, tempting me to renege on renegeing, tempting me to not be faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. And the reminders can be painful. It just seems to me there has been very clear (at least to me) manifestations of a spiritual reality that is whatever force wants to oppose forgiveness and love and the truth of Jesus Christ. Very obvious was when I gave a court judge a letter saying I forgive the other side of court and the judge responded that I have no right to forgive, and I received an 18 month sentence (after already serving an approximately half a year of bail conditions so strict that it's like already being under a sentence) with an additional 7 years of waiting to be practically employable again under the clean slate act, whilst not allowing me to take a diversion and at the same time allowing the newspapers to write things that are not true regarding what has happened. I could go on and on and on about the visible manifestations of that anti-love, anti-forgiveness, anti-truth, anti-Jesus Christ spirit. That's just some of exterior visible manifestations. Other than that there has been relentless daily (almost all the days; all but a negligible quantity) reminders and temptations and lying accusing dreams and visions trying to reverse my commitments to the Lord Jesus Christ. And so you see, I have been buried under this absolutely satanic spiritual oppression for a long time.

I repeat, I want to be able to commit my way to the Lord Jesus Christ without being harassed by demons. I want to be able to sleep without demons groping me and pushing intrusive dreams and visions into my head. I want everyone who has been involved in the circumstances surrounding what happened to be OK and for them to have as the full measure of grace that is available to them. And once again, I have to reiterate this that pleaded guilty in good faith and in complaining about spiritual harassment, I'm not seeking to reverse the charge. I don't want the charge reversed. I want for the love of God to be able to commit my way to the Lord including taking a charge, but without getting attacked by demons. I want deliverance from spiritual harassment. In complaining about my circumstances I'm not in any way trying to reverse my commitments to the Lord Jesus Christ. I just want to be set free from demonic/satanic oppression and I want to be spoken to by Holy Spirit confirming the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to hear Holy Spirit tell me straight to my heart that I'm a child of God and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who has come into the world from God in the flesh.

78.4.31 Journal <2025-11-22 Sat>

I have close to no freedom. I have very little joy. I feel crushed to a pulp both by the world and by the church. I've been made to endure testing, and harassment while having my joy stolen from me, while I have been trusting and obeying Jesus Christ, which **should** lead to peace that cannot be taken away and to rest.

But how does anyone weather such trials without joy? How does anyone find motivation to do anything when joy has been taken away. And how easy it is to do things when full of joy.

This is the pattern:

- 1. I find joy in something or someone (e.g. in God's commandments, or in getting born-again or in another person)
- 2. The devil comes along to try to steal that joy from me by undermining it in some way

The hope of the righteous brings joy (**Proverbs 10:28**). And love rejoices with the truth (**I Corinthians 13:6**).

I mean, there's nothing like feeling washed clean and given a brand new heart and spirit. Nothing quite like it. It's better than buying a new computer, that's for sure. And practicing righteousness, acting in truth and not lies, is joyous. And practicing righteousness, acting in charity and mercy, is joyous.

I do not think I am a greedy person at all, and that's a really good thing to not covet or agape-love money. But that means that I'm not motivated by earning lots of money. I love to give to other people. So, not being motivated by money, yet being compelled to work very hard in order to just get by, it is painfully difficult to do that when I do not have my own wife or family. Why? Because there is very close to no motivating reason to be working so, so much.

In 2020 there was someone else who I was interested and I'm using her as an example, because even before I was born-again and regenerated, in doing stuff for her, I had so much joy. With joy acting in truth out of love, there's no desire to want to sin. Like even though I was not in a relationship with this person, not a 2-way

relationship anyway, if I gave her flowers (which she never accepted, which is fine. I think it's an important detail), or a birthday present or whatever it was, I'd easily just empty my wallet or all of my time to make something for her or give her something and when I actually followed through and did it I had so much joy that I could work endless hours, and I could resist sinful habits and not do them. There might be the thought "if there was ever to be a relationship between me and this person then they wouldn't want me to be watching porn", for example, so I wouldn't, and there was also no desire to do so because I was just happy while living authentically. My thoughts were actually more along the lines of, "I just feel so much better when acting out of integrity rather than lies. It gave me joy to do things for this person." That was not reciprocal but I felt like I no longer had a fractured heart. God doesn't want our hearts to be corrupt and a heart that doesn't desire to do good is the problem. I mean, when I had started acting out of my convictions to overcome anxiety, anxiety bought on by these social "rules" (which were not God's rules, that's for sure), and when I stopped listening to liars and started acting on "what felt right, correct" (I'm not advocating "feelings"-alone as a guiding principle of course, but Biblically good feelings are good feelings and not bad ones. We are supposed to have good motivations and not evil ones. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil - Matthew 12:35) then I had joy - lots of joy. But, she didn't feel the same way and that's OK. But after that I was not going to go back to living out of lies or out of guile. But overcoming the "fear of man" led to the next part of my journey. Christians are not supposed to fear man, but we are supposed to fear God!

But the point I try to make is:

- When I have no joy, it's like trying to make bricks without straw.
- When I have no joy, my concentration gets severely compromised, and distractions and false-substitutes are then used to fill the time. The devil knows this, so the devil tries to cut off sources of joy from my life, and undermine my good conscience with God, in order to tempt me into sin (to take the temporary edge off of my pain). But sin, I am now dead to (being regenerate), and are divinely empowered to stop practicing it. But that doesn't mean that the temptations cease with getting regenerated.
- I can complete huge amounts of work (or study, or 'labours of love') when I have **joy**.

Then in 2021 soon after I had properly given up with the last person, I met someone else. It was very unexpected. I wasn't looking or thinking about anyone else. But they just turned up.

And I had so much joy. And it felt like there was none of the former problems at all. I can't tell you how happy I was.

There's a memory I have of looking at her like face to face from across a room and there were several seconds before I even registered that it happened. I was like a cat looking at a car's headlights no longer able to do anything. It was like that. That was before I met her.

But then years later I meet here really unexpectedly and everything feels good.

I had so much **joy** and **hope**. And we were talking and then (I'm claiming family interference) I was not able to talk to her anymore. Conversation with her was terminated by my own free will out of their interests.

I had been talking to her about Pen.el, coming up with the name "Pen of Imagination", when I had just started working on it and getting ideas on it. That year I spent so, so much time pouring into this project because I was prevented from talking to her, she who I ended up proposing to later, and that the Pen.el project was one of the last things we had talked about and I wanted to make something for her out of it.

I can complete **huge** amounts of work when I have **joy**.

Towards the end of 2021, I begin turning to God, and seeking Him, because I could see what was coming with AI LLMs etc. and my joy was constantly being hacked at and everything seemed futile because no amount of work could ever "get on top" of AI or ever be enough to "find a wife". It just seemed like everything was impossible because of evil. I kept going because I had faith that I would see her again. That is what was motivating me. I had to keep having faith in seeing her again in order to keep going on.

And then I began seeking God much more diligently because of the AI stuff on the horizon.

I began falling in love with God's commandments. I had begun actually trying to follow the 10 commandments from the heart. I would wear a necklace with 10 1s on it (an identity matrix) which represented to me following the 10 commandments from the heart.

And then I get born-again on 2 April while wearing it and I became so full of joy and wonder over God.

I feel huge amounts of joy over Jesus Christ and over the grace of God which I received in a new spirit.

Out of wanting to honor Jesus after receiving the grace of God, I immediately put down a lot of bad sinful habits like watching porn which was a very dirty, depraved, habit. At least where previously it was the joy I had in those two girls/women which helped me to not engage in sinful stuff. But now, I felt like I didn't need that sinful stuff anymore.

God fixed me. God washed me. My room was extremely messy. But God fixed me. I was made new.

After getting born-again, it becomes very important to be a light to other people. It's important to not receive the grace of God in vain. It's important to not squander the grace but to share it with others.

After 1 month of pouring myself into telling people about me getting born-again, as I wanted to give God my **first fruits**, the pain of being cut off from talking to the person who I had met 1 year before started to become too great again. One month after being born-again of the spirit I became depressed. The only way I was able to continue is by reassuring myself that I'd see her again. That's kind of how faith works.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(ESV)

But it's faith based on what? It was faith based on believing that it was good/pure. I wouldn't say it was faith based on a word from God.

Up to 2 April 2022 I was building Pen.el like Noah built an ark (Hebrews 11:7), but I wasn't warned by God regarding the AI stuff. Up to 2 April 2022 I was also building Pen.el fully sure that I'd see her again (Hebrews 11:1). Up to 2 April 2022 I was walking by faith for absolute sure, but faith in what? I had faith, joy and hope.

Before I was born-again, building Pen.el when it was AI software, I was exercising faith but it was faith in one day being able to talk to her again.

After I was born-again, I have been writing my Bible and "walking by faith" but I needed a lot of correction and I was learning to trust God's Word. It has been very difficult sometimes:

Titus 2:11-13 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (ESV)

Hebrews 11:36-40 - Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. (ESV)

Where there is hope there can be joy.

Being born-again and regenerate my joy must be grounded on having a good conscience with God. If I don't have a good conscience with God, I won't have joy. So that's a real force for giving up idols, that is striving to maintain a good conscience with God.

But when I was born-again it became important to be putting my faith in God.

I think that right now I would have a lot of joy if:

- I felt clean and not harassed so that I could have hope and the joy of my salvation returned
- I was spoken to clearly and trustworthy by God with the testimony that Jesus Christ has come into the world from God in the flesh.

How joy has been taken away from me. So joy which I had regarding being born-again has been after a while taken away:

- I have been made to **feel** like I have committed eternal sin because of an out of body meeting with someone claiming to be Holy Spirit on 3 May 2022, and then me, maybe gullible me, unsure, claiming that it was Holy Spirit but later realising that it didn't carry with it the testimony of Jesus Christ that the Apostle

John says means that spirit is from God. So the spirit did not tell me that "Jesus Christ has come [from God, into the world,] in the flesh (i.e. flesh and blood)". That doesn't mean it **wasn't** the Holy Spirit, I don't think, anyway. But because it didn't give me the testimony, I can't say for sure that it was. Now, initially, I had just assumed that good things were happening. But after a couple of years I have been forced to question whether it was Holy Spirit or not, and having made claims.

- But in my defense, on 3 May 2022, I spoke to the spirit and said, "My God is the God of Truth, Jesus has saved me from lies and Holy Spirit is my comforter. Are you the Holy Spirit?" And the spirit responded with, "Yes. I'll take a look at you."
 - No matter what that spirit said to me, I testified of Jesus. I testified of the God of Truth. I don't think I said anything wrong there. I was set free from **sin** through baptism into Jesus Christ's death (Romans 6:7). So I **was** set free from lies.
- But, later on, I have come see the spirit's response with a big question mark because of what Jesus says in Matthew 5:37. It's a little bit ambiguous because the response **was** simply a yes, followed by another separate sentence. I cannot be conclusive about it. In my view because there was not the "I John 4:2" testimony of Jesus Christ then I cannot trust it completely.
 - **Matthew 5:37** - but let your word be, Yes, Yes, No, No, and that which is more than these is of the evil. (YLT)

Here is the pattern again. The pattern is that the devil targets my joy. The devil tries to kill steal the hope and the joy from me, and to be honest has been largely successful, but I'm trusting Jesus that that is temporary. I will have joy that the devil will not be able to steal:

- 1. On 3rd of May 2022, something happens. Now I thought at the time that this date was providence.
 - For a long time leading up to this, I have been unable to "get a Christian girlfriend". Forming romantic relationships has been impossible. They've been denied. I've been prevented from marrying. I've been prevented from having intimacy, from having a partner who acts on good will and on good faith and unconditional love. If it's a relationship then it has had to be unequally yoked in order for me to have it. So when I meet someone where it seemed like there were none of those types of problems about a year before I was born-again, I just had **joy** over it. It was pure joy for me. The only obstacle seemed to be "what other people thought" as far as I could tell.
- 2. And on 3rd of May 2022, I thought that having that "meeting" with someone who claimed to be Holy Spirit was providence because of the date that it happened. One year later, on 3 May 2023, I'm in a court of law being told by a judge that I must have

e been baptised at midnight.

I feel like my joy of being born-again and the feeling of being right and clean with God, and the feeling of having someone who I thought God made for me has all been taken from me, and I've been left feeling abandoned by God after pouring myself into trying to please Him.

This is what it has been like for me.

The attacks just kept going, and going, and going.

I made a marriage proposal to the person who I wanted to marry and I started getting spiritually attacked a lot after that.

My outwards appearance was messy. My room was messy. My room is currently messy, actually. But I loved God and I loved that girl. God gave me a new heart and a spirit and then I proposed to someone.

I proposed to them despite having been warned to not communicate with them. I got a warning letter from the police after that. It was like the terminator appearing on my doorstep. You decide if this is good or evil. Is it good or evil to deny marriage, but who exactly has been denying it? Is it people or is it demons. I don't blame the police officer, although if it were me, I would have used more discernment I would hope. I don't even really

blame the other side of court. I think the problem is demons, and I think this problem has been a problem for longer than I know.

Was it good or evil that I decided to propose to her? Was it wrong for me to ignore the warning and do it?

If someone told you to not inhale air while in the same room as them, then as a Christian are you obligated to hold your breath and suffocate and die because it might offend someone - because you have to "love them"? If an evil person told a Christian to renounce their faith in Jesus because they are offended by it, a Christian should surely not do as the evil person has said. That is because a Christian is not supposed to act fraudulently or deny the truth, and a Christian is not supposed to obey unrighteousness but honor God in their body. A Christian must love in the truth.

The question is, if someone said, "You're not allowed to speak to someone", but you couldn't bare not being able to talk to them every again, feeling like you'd want to kill yourself if you couldn't and then intended to propose to them, is it wrong to propose to them? And if it is wrong, is it the type of thing that needs to be punished so cruelly? I think that making it impossible to propose marriage is not OK. Actually the Bible says that in the last days people will forbid marriage (I Timothy 4:3).

Did God plan out this living nightmare in advance for me?

I think that Jesus should have spoken clearly to me about what has happened before it got to this point. I think that He should have answered one of my prayer requests a long time ago. By being in this situation without God's very specific guidance, I feel a little bit wronged by God. God sees the heart, so he saw what was in my heart. He must've seen the good. And yet, I feel like the good has been treated as if it was sin.

Imagine this, a person goes through life looking for someone to do life with. After spending their 20s and early 30s and to be honest teenage years too denied the right type of Christian relationship, and without Christian discipleship either, unable to marry and working extremely hard for hardly any money, finally meeting someone and out of peace, joy, agape love, rest, wanting to propose to them, but someone has made it impossible, and also, you've just been born-again of the spirit.

Not only would I not cover up being born-again of the spirit (I blogged about it the day it happened), but why would I also want to suffocate and kill a love. God doesn't want me to cover up His gospel, or good deeds. Would God want me to experience love that wants to marry someone and then suffocate it and never let it see the light of day? Is that what God wants? To first let a person experience what it's like to love someone and then destroy out of duty? I think Jesus Himself needs to give me the answer to that one. And He also needs to fix me.

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

If I am not made totally clean again and restored and spoken to, then I believe God has wronged me. What I've been through is a living hell that has left me feeling defiled and forsaken by God. It's really not OK. The adversity has gone way too far.

I John 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

So this is the basic pattern.

- 1. I'm washed clean. God gives me a new heart that fears Him and a new spirit, with a good, clean conscience and joy. I learn to reject lies and rejoice with the truth
- 2. The devil then tries to attack the joy of being washed clean or the joy in the truth. I am attacked by demons, almost every single day waking up to lewd, antichrist, lying, dreams and visions and other attacks against my soul. And when I cave in to temptation it feels like I become a bit more unclean.

I need to be clean and have a good conscience to have joy:

Jude 1:24-25 - Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to **present you blameless** before the presence of his glory **with great joy**, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (ESV)

How am I supposed to function properly if I'm not allowed to have joy? Why would I have **any** interest in being here on the earth when I've got nothing to hope in and nothing to have joy about?

Now I am only hoping in being released from this world so I can go to a place where righteousness dwells, rather than darkness, because this world is darkness, and it's giving me no love.

I hope to be saved and raptured. Even that hope of rapture has been attacked. Even the hope of being caught up with Jesus Christ in the air at the end of the ages and going to heaven has been attacked. Yes, even that. It could be this one. It's correct to be encouraged by that hope.

Rapture is biblically correct, and judgement at the **close** of the age is biblically correct, and a total renewal of the cosmos (heavens and earth) is biblically correct. Sure, the earth has had many ages and earth might even go on for many more ages, but only the Father knows when the very end is. But at the end of the age there is the separation of the wheat and the tares.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 - But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (ESV)

Matthew 13:38-43 - The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (ESV)

James 5:4-10 - Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (ESV)

It's Biblically correct to hope for a completely brand new heavens and earth where righteousness dwells:

II Peter 3:7-14 - But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction (G684 *apōleias*: Destruction, ruin, loss, perdition) of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which

righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (ESV)

II Peter 3:7-14 doesn't say if current cosmos becomes the hell, but I have speculated if that is the case. Regardless, the current heavens and earth is destroyed by fire. Well, actually, Jesus says that heaven and earth will pass away (G3928 pareleusetai: To pass by, to pass away, to come to an end, to neglect, to disregard.) and I think hell is eternal. I don't presently believe in "annihilation". There is destruction and a fire that is not quenched.

Matthew 25:46 - And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (ESV)

Mark 9:47-48 - And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched (G4570 sbennytai: To quench, to extinguish, to put out). (ESV)

I do not believe in "reincarnation" into the same 'kosmos' (G2889 kosmos: world). At the close of the age the bad people get sent to the bad place and the good people go to a distinct 'kosmos' where righteousness dwells:

Matthew 13:45-52 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things? They said to him, Yes. And he said to them, Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.

II Peter 3:1-8 - This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation. For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** (ESV)

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

It's biblical that in "holding our faith" in Jesus Christ, that is trusting and obeying Him, we should be yielding HOPE.

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (ESV)

I do relate to Hebrews 10:34, but if I'm made to think that my future is compromised, when I feel like I've become dirty, then how am I to have joy? Without hope, how is there joy?

Proverbs 10:28 - The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. (ESV)

Hebrews 10:34 - For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. (ESV)

I Thessalonians 1:6 - And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, (ESV)

Yes, I think a clean conscience is a requisite for real joy. But joy, as Spurgeon puts it, is "peace dancing."

Quote from CH Spurgeon "Peace is joy resting, and joy is peace dancing"

James 1:2-3 - Count it all joy (G5479 charan), my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (ESV)

We need to be walking in the light for our joy to be made complete:

I John 1:1-7 - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (ESV)

I had to do a study on the peace that Jesus gives.

Why am I not allowed rest? Why am I denied peace? Why have I been denied holiness. (Now this is absolutely criminal. I was washed clean and then I was attacked near ceaselessly by demons.)

I had to do a Bible study today on "the peace that Jesus gives" after asking myself that question "why am I denied peace?"

The peace Jesus gives is not "peace on Earth" with just anyone:

Matthew 10:32-38 - So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (ESV)

It's peace between those who God is pleased with:

Luke 2:14 - Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! (ESV)

John 16:25-28 - I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

It's peace "in Christ" with each other and with God's Kingdom in heaven and earth:

Colossians 1:20 - and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (ESV)

It's peace with God for those for those who have faith in Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:23-25,5:1-2 - But the words it was counted to him were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (ESV)

It's peace for those who do good:

Romans 2:9-11 - There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. (ESV)

God trains us through discipline for holiness to behave righteously and the fruit of that yields peace:

Hebrews 12:10-11 - For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (ESV)

We endure trials and tribulations, and the world rejoices meanwhile, but in the end we have joy that noone can take away:

John 16:20-22 - Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. (ESV)

78.4.32 Journal <2025-11-23 Sun>

I do not believe in "reincarnation" into the same 'kosmos' (G2889 kosmos: world). At the close of the age the bad people get sent to the bad place and the good people go to a distinct 'kosmos' where righteousness dwells. I believe that the righteousness go to heaven with incorruptable bodies, rather than back to Earth:

Matthew 13:45-52 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things? They said to him, Yes. And he said to them, Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.

II Peter 3:1-8 - This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing

as they were from the beginning of creation. For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** (ESV)

I do not believe that with the bodily resurrection that we will return to an Earth with corruption in it:

Acts 2:27 - For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. (ESV)

With the resurrection of the body, we do not die anymore, and do not marry anymore:

Matthew 22:30 - For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (ESV)

Being born-again of the spirit, yet still on the Earth, I do not believe it is sinful for me to marry. Except that I have made commitment to the Lord Jesus already that I would not. As I told Jesus, everything is on the backburner until He speaks to me.

Some fall asleep in Christ and then are raised. But some do not all sleep but are changed in a moment:

I Corinthians 15:17-22 - And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (ESV)

The body needs to die to be raised to life:

I Corinthians 15:36 - You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. (ESV)

I Corinthians 15:51-58 - Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

I think this is how it works: First there is the resurrection of the spirit (2 April 2022 for me), which is being baptised into Christ's death and raised to new life. Then there is the resurrection of the body. It's normal for a born-again Christian to also die an earthly death but this is not the death of the spirit. The person's consciousness continues after bodily death. And the physical body is resurrected also to life:

I Corinthians 15:42 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. (ESV)

When people the righteous rise from the dead with their resurrection body, they are like angels - imperishable, never to die anymore. There is certainly no reincarnation for them. While I believe there are "many" ages of the Earth, I do not believe in an earthly reincarnation. After one go in this Earth, I believe the righteous go to heaven. And heaven is a place without corruption. That's my beliefs:

Mark 12:25 - For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (ESV)

Luke 20:33-36 - In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife. And Jesus said to them, The sons of this age marry and 'are given' (women are given) in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead **neither marry nor are given in marriage**, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are **sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.** (ESV)

I love the Lord Jesus Christ, and I'm really tired. I'm really, really tired. I'm very sick and tired of going through testing, and tribulations, and feeling some defilement mess with my body. I feel like I'm being pushed too hard. I'm sick of being in this situation while only going by Scripture and not hearing clear and trustworthy directions and clarifications from God.

Abraham heard an audible voice from God. I think Joseph got dreams and visions.

I just seem to get dreams and visions but the absolute vast majority of them or maybe almost all of them just seem to come from demons. And I'm so sick of it. It's just not right.

78.4.33 Journal <2025-11-24 Mon>

The good Samaritan didn't stalk the innkeeper to find out how they used the money which he gave to support the neighbour he made.

It's not our duty to avenge wrongdoing. It's our duty to keep God's commandments for us.

So that means when we give we do it out of mercy, faith and obedience to Jesus (**Matthew 5:42**). That's our duty.

We do our duty in that moment of charity, but that doesn't mean our duty ends in that moment. The good Samaritan was so committed to the welfare of the neighbour he met, that he made a commitment to pay anything further that the innkeeper may require in caring for his neighbour when next he visits.

The only person who can make this commitment with a guarantee is God since God owns the cosmos (**Psalms 50:11-12**) and God always fulfills His promises at the right time (**Hebrews 11:39**) for those who through faith and patience inherit His promises (**Hebrews 6:11-12**):

Hebrews 6:11-12 - And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (ESV)

We should still love like the good Samaritan, but recognise that despite our best efforts, we will always fall short of the glory of God, and need God's grace so are justified by our faith in Jesus Christ, not works, but in faith we obey Jesus and in faith we love God and our neighbour and hope in God:

Romans 3:21-24 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (ESV)

We should not be the person who hides Jesus' money in the ground. But have a changed heart to desire to love in deed. After all Jesus purifies for Himself a people who are zealous for good works:

Matthew 25:17-18 - So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. (ESV)

Matthew 25:24-25 - He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. (ESV)

Titus 2:11-15 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you. (ESV)

We need to recognise that God has loved us first and Jesus Christ is our Redeemer who gave Himself for us to redeem us and we are only saved through His name. There's no other name that saves. All glory to God:

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

Isaiah 44:22 - I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (ESV)

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (ESV)

The Innkeeper has a duty. His master entrusted him with a person who needs help, some instructions to help them (commandments to follow), and some money, the means to care for that person, and the freedom to willfully carry out that duty, and promises to return to settle accounts. I believe we need to continue to seek commendation from God even after having received mercy:

Matthew 25:19 - Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. (ESV)

Matthew 25:17-19 - So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. (ESV)

Matthew 18:23,33 - Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you? (ESV)

I believe that justification is a state of righteousness which we don't commend ourselves for (God commends people for their faith), Jesus talks about those who humble themselves. The tax collector here remained in a place of knowing they still need mercy from God.

I believe we need to continue seeking to please God and to forsake sin and to keep Jesus' commandments. Humility continues to endeavour to be commended by God. So that is what we should do. I think it's OK to think of a servant of Jesus as the Innkeeper in Jesus parable, Jesus being the ultimate Good Samaritan, and then Jesus' servants exercising this same type of love in the way that Jesus commands us to love. Jesus is our Redeemer. So I think we can think of the Innkeeper as having been redeemed in order to exercise the love of God. God draws people to Jesus, Jesus entrusts His servants with the care of people along with the means to do so. In the parable, the good Samaritan gave the Innkeeper a person and the means to care for them, and a commandment to do so, and the Innkeeper has to go on in faith. It might get difficult, the good Samaritan promised that he would pay anything extra when he returns. So sometimes things might look quite tight financially but we are commanded to have faith and do our duty:

Luke 18:9-14 - He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (ESV)

Saving for own future while at the same time neglecting the duty that we have for our neighbour and family in Christ is lacking in faith. Saving is OK but it's not good if it means willful disobedience to Jesus.

Who saves fire extinguishers for their own house when their neighbour's or nearby relative's house is burning down? Likewise, our earthly possessions should be thought of as belonging to Jesus, and should be used as a means to take care of one another.

How could it be said there was faith in the obedience if you only had confidence if you are assured by natural means such as sight how the money is going to be used? That would be very "works"-based as well, rather than "faith-based".

We walk by faith and not by sight.

Now, if you "did" see the money being misused, that makes things more complicated (**I Corinthians 10:28-29**).

But we're not supposed to be actively ensuring that everyone is definitely going to use the money for this specific purpose. Sinful people do make mistakes and sometimes fall into temptation and misuse money that's been given to them in charity or for charity. But God sent Jesus while we were yet sinners. God gave us the benefit of the doubt. And that's how God continues to deal with us. If we repent, God gives more mercy.

Proverbs 3:34 - Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor. (ESV)

James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (ESV)

Like the master in Jesus's parable, we give people the "benefit of the doubt" when it comes to giving:

Matthew 25:19-21 - Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. (ESV)

If there was no "benefit of the doubt" then there'd be no freedom in it, there'd be no opportunity for the person to will the good, rather than out of compulsion.

It would be eliminating God's work in the situation and to not have faith that God is working in the situation if one were to think they needed to be constantly enforcing how the money is used.

If the innkeeper in the parable of the "good Samaritan" thought he may need to spend some money on medicine, food or something for the comfort, or to give money to the person in need for travels, say or whatever may arise as a need in the care of the person, then they have freedom to use that money in that way and God sees everything.

Rather than following people around to see how they use goods given to them in charity, we could give to one person, and entrust the situation to God, and immediately are ready for doing something else.

Luke 10:35 - And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back. (ESV)

Romans 12:19 - Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. (ESV)

Matthew 5:42 - Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. (ESV)

Luke 21:1-4 - Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on. (ESV)

I'm so tired. When it comes to loving my neighbour, as much as I do love my cat, I must care of my neighbour and family in Christ. Agape love is certainly value driven and Jesus says that though God values and feeds animals and adorns plants, God values His children more than many sparrows.

So ensuring that someone who I consider to be a neighbour or potential family in Christ has what they need is more important to me than ensuring that my cat lives in luxury, or trying to give her the best medical attention. If my cat falls ill, and I do not have enough money to ensure that she has the best food, or to buy a special collar to ward off birds (and I do care the birds survival too), there are things that I cannot control such as getting sick and dying that I need to trust God will be in that situation. That's the situation I'm currently in. Money is very tight right now:

Matthew 10:29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (ESV)

Proverbs 12:10 - Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. (ESV)

Luke 12:22-59 - And he said to his disciples, Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Peter said, Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all? And the Lord said, Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, My master is delayed in coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will but

did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law. He also said to the crowds, When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, A shower is coming. And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, There will be scorching heat, and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny. (ESV)

We are supposed to just follow Jesus Christ, first and foremost. Households will be divided. We just keep trusting and obeying Jesus Christ first and foremost, and like Peter on the water, try to focus on by faith obeying Jesus Christ and to not be distracted.

John 21:21-22 - When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, Lord, what about this man? Jesus said to him, If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me! (ESV)

Matthew 14:28-32 - And Peter answered him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. He said, Come. So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, Lord, save me. Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. (ESV)

78.4.34 Journal <2025-11-29 Sat>

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

John 15:26 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (ESV)

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (ESV)

Acts 15:8-9 - And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (ESV)

John 16:7 - Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (ESV)

The Holy Spirit **must** make this confession (speak the same thing as God) that Jesus Christ has come (from God, into the world) in the flesh (as flesh and blood) for us to know that the spirit is from God. That's how we

know the Spirit of God (i.e. by whether or not the spirit confesses the same Jesus Christ, agreeing with God over this truth and further truths).

So if we are to **know** for sure that the spirit is from God then it must confess this fact, that Jesus Christ has come (proceeded forth) [from God, into the world] in the flesh [i.e. as flesh and blood]. If you don't know that the spirit affirms this fact then we can't know that it's the Holy Spirit:

I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

Believing some kind of "witness from afar" of Jesus Christ from Holy Spirit, such as the Scripture's witness of Jesus regarding Him to be the Son of God is not the fullness of what is promised. What is promised is that Holy Spirit will be in those who love Jesus, keeping His commandments:

John 14:15-17 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (ESV)

Galatians 4:6 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father! (ESV)

Romans 8:15-17 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

John 15:26-27 - But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (ESV)

The Holy Spirit's words and testimony of Jesus should not feel bottle-necked to those who have Holy Spirit in their heart. We do hope for Holy Spirit to really be supplying to us in an inexhaustible way, the words of God. We should trust God for this and hope for it, and think that's where we should be, rather than trusting a lie and being short-sold:

John 3:34 - For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. (ESV)

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

So when someone deters you from trusting the promise of God regarding the bearing witness of Jesus Christ from the Holy Spirit directly inside of you, just rebuke them sharply and say what the Scripture says about it, and try to correct them, but certainly resist and do not believe the lie.

Because we are told to **not** trust every spirit but that we should test the spirits to see if they are from God. If we are obedient to this, we would only trust a spirit that we have tested. And we should **keep on testing** them. We have to continue coming into agreement with and affirming the Truth. If the spirit has not made the confession then we should not be trusting it. We should be distrusting it. If the spirit is not continuing to abide in the truth then we should not be led by it. If the spirit is speaking a different Jesus then we should not trust that spirit.

We should be testing people like this also:

II John 1:6-11 - And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. (ESV)

When someone tries to tell you that this is some of bonus or extra, say in response that it's actually part of the package, as the sum of God's word is the Truth, not just part of it, and we have to go on abiding in Jesus Christ's teaching to **have God**, and we don't want anyone to short-sell us.

When someone tries to say that salvation is "not a process" or something that we still hope in even after being "saved", don't believe the lie, because even after we are "saved", we still believe that there is a future salvation. We don't want to be short-changed of God's work in sanctifying us as we trust and obey Jesus Christ. Jesus bought the redemption and the sanctification with His blood. So if you have issues with defilement, then don't be letting Satan trick you into thinking that you shouldn't be trusting and obeying Jesus to be sanctified because to do so would be to sell-yourself short of the sanctification that Jesus bought.

Acts 15:11 - But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will. (ESV)

I Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (ESV)

Jude 1:19-21 - It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (ESV)

If God hasn't yet given the testimony of Jesus Christ directly to you from Holy Spirit dwelling in you, then just continue on having faith in what the Scripture says about it, having faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, faith that Father God raised Jesus Christ from the dead in the power of the Holy Spirit, and seek to abide in Jesus Christ's commandments and believe that God has promised that you'll receive this testimony and hope for it.

Romans 1:1-6 - Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, (ESV)

Romans 8:11,24-25 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (ESV)

Hebrews 6:11-12 - And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (ESV)

All children of God (children of the promise) purify themselves:

I John 3:1-3 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** (ESV)

God Almighty knows that I've been coming under huge amounts of spiritual attack and have been exposed even to this day to disgusting, lewd, antichrist dreams and visions. But even though I sometimes have given in to temptations, I will seek to hate my mistakes, confess my sin, repent, hate the sin, and I'm going to keep confessing and holding to and being corrected by the truth of what the Scripture says and keep trusting that God will sanctify me as I trust and obey Him.

There has been a huge amount of spiritual resistance to me doing this. I do not understand why I've been attacked to this degree, it does sometimes make me feel like God is not taking care of me sufficiently but allowing me to be attacked more than I can handle, and I do often now complain a lot to God about it and when I do, that's when satan sends more of his messengers. It's disgusting stuff and it's really challenging. And in Jesus Christ's name I just rebuke the demons which have been harassing me. May the Lord Jesus Christ deliver me from these damned spirits that have been invading my mind during my sleep, and targeting my soul, causing sexual sensations trying to provoke me to arousal. Yes, I rebuke every one of those damned spirits in the name of Jesus Christ. And may Jesus Christ sanctify me and protect me, provide the testimony from Holy Spirit and God-willing, rapture off this planet.

78.4.35 Journal <2025-11-30 Sun>

My mind was once again flooded with dreams, visions and voices which are not from God last night and this morning. My sleep was very broken as it has daily been, to being woken up to invasive dreams that are not of the truth. How do I know they're not from God?

- They're false. No lie is of the truth.
- They don't confess the same Jesus who is Christ, the Son of God.
- They are not affirming a love for God.
- They are not affirming a love or desire to do the will of God.
- They just seem to be opposed to doing the will of God, or to thinking about His word or to obeying Him.
- They're often "worldly", almost obsessively fixated on earthly pleasures.
- They're often lewd, and antichrist, and seek to tempt to do what displeases God.
- And they're often mocking of faith in Jesus Christ.
- And the dreams and visions that are not from God don't lead into the truth. God speaks clearly and leads into the truth, and into understanding. God is not a God of confusion (disorder) but a God of peace. (Genesis 20:3-7, II Timothy 2:7, I Corinthians 14:29-33)
 - I'm very sick and tired of getting the types of dreams/visions which are ambiguous and seem to lead to more confusion and more second-guessing, more instability. Rather than clearing anything up, they just bring about more confusion. They'll say something like, "I'll let you sit on my throne." (Revelation of John 3:21). But even Satan has a throne. (Revelation of John 2:13).
 - * Very frequently, I get these types of dreams and visions. It's tiring and I'm sick of it.
 - * When God sends a messenger, God is not ambiguous. (Numbers 22:30-32)

I've had no word from God, at least recently, aside from what I read in Scripture. There's been no confession of Jesus Christ from the Holy Spirit in that form of dream/vision/voice to my heart. God help me. It's just awful and I'm really tired of this.

We need to be abiding in Jesus Christ's commandments lawfully in faith in the truth and love for the truth, loving one-another the way Jesus commanded us and demonstrated to be well-established, to be stable and so that in time of testing we will not fall away:

Luke 8:13 - And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. (ESV)

II Peter 3:17 - You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. (ESV)

Matthew 7:15-27 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (ESV)

Doing what's lawful:

If a person has a good heart then out from that good heart they will do good:

- **Luke 8:15** - As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (ESV)
- **Luke 6:45** - The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (ESV)

Jesus fixes our heart so that we trust in the truth and love the truth and love in truth. We have a law-abiding faith in Jesus Christ:

- **Romans 5:7-8** - For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)

We then do everything out of a heart that has faith in the truth and love for the truth:

- **Romans 14:23** - But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (ESV)
- **Matthew 22:37-40** - And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (ESV)
- **I John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, **how does God's love abide in him?** (ESV)

- **Luke 6:9-10** - And Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? And after looking around at them all he said to him, Stretch out your hand. And he did so, and his hand was restored. (ESV)

I think that the breastplate of righteousness (breastplate of faith and love) **depends** on faith and love. To love God and our neighbour is our duty:

I Thessalonians 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on **the breastplate of faith and love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (ESV)

78.4.36 Journal <2025-12-05 Fri>

What is not done in faith is sin (Romans 14:23, James 4:17). What is not done in law-abiding agape love is also sin (Matthew 22:36-40, I John 3:4). Christians should imitating the love of Jesus Christ, trusting God will take care of them, doing good and refusing to harm others (Ecclesiastes 7:16, Romans 13:10, I Peter 4:19, I Peter 2:23) according to God's commandments for us (I John 5:2). God has taught through His word what doing no harm to one's neighbour looks like. We are instructed to share the gospel in the following of and the imitation of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34-36) and the passing on of Jesus' teachings and commandments, discipling others (Matthew 28:18-20).

Luke 16:16-17 - The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is **easier** for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. (ESV)

Luke 16:16-17 does not have the word "were" in it in the Greek. But it reads more like "With regard to the Law and prophets up to John...". It's clear that the Law isn't voided because of what Jesus says next.

Luke 16:17 - But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. (ESV)

1 The (G3588)	---	
2 law (G3551)	Just a way of specifying the law up to this time,	
3 and (G2532)	not saying the law is only up to this time.	
4 the (G3588)		
5 prophētai (G4396)		
6 until (G3360)		
7 John (G2491)	---	
8		
9 from (G575)		
10 that time (G5119)		
11 the(G3588)		
12 kingdom (G932)		
13 - (G3588)		
14 of God (G2316)		
15 is proclaimed (G2097)		
16		
17 and (G2532)		
18 everyone (G3956)		
19 into (G1519)		
20 it (G846)		
21 forces his way (G971)		

I think Matthew 11:13 reads in the Greek more like, "All the prophets and the law until John prophesied." The way the ESV reads, it seems to make it Matt 11:13 out to say there were only prophets up until John, and so by implication excludes Jesus Christ Himself, who is also the Son of God, from being a 'prophet'. And it also

seems to read like the Law itself was only until John. But I do not believe that Matthew 11:13 actually reads like that the Greek. I believe that the way the Greek reads is more like this: "all the prophets and the Law up to John prophesied". Consider that Jesus Christ is the telos of the Law and Jesus also gave commandments (Christ's Law), it also makes sense that He is the "telos of the prophets". Jesus is the Son of God, but that doesn't mean He is not also regarded as a prophet. Jesus also made prophets Himself.

Ephesians 4:11-13 - And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ. (engbsb2020eb)

And if those who Jesus sends are speaking by the Holy Spirit, then what they say will be speaking the same (G3670 homologeo) Jesus. Their words would not contradict Jesus Christ's words. Their words will not be contradicting who Jesus is. Their words would not contradict what the Old Testament prophets have spoken about Jesus.

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (ESV)

If we are "in the Spirit" then what other people confess or refuse to confess identifies whether or not the spirit working through them is from God. The principle can and should be used to test dreams, visions, angels, demons and human beings to see if we can trust them. I would never trust someone completely who refuses to give me the testimony that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, as the Apostle John speaks of in I John 4:2-3.

I John 4:2-3 doesn't say that if a spirit speaks the name "Jesus" then it's from God. It doesn't say that at all. Rather, this word confess (G3670 homologeo) surely means that "confess Jesus" is agreeing with, agreeing with Jesus. The spirit must agree that Jesus has come in the flesh and the spirit must agree with Jesus. Now if a spirit does say to me that "Jesus Christ has come from God into the world in the flesh", then that gives me confidence that the message is from God:

I John 4:2-3 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. (ESV)

Luke 24:25 - And he said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! (ESV)

78.4.37 Journal <2025-12-07 Sun>

We are commanded to walk in the truth, and walking in the truth means we must be speaking the same Jesus Christ, and speaking the same teachings of Jesus Christ, and abiding in the teaching of Christ, and we must love one another walking according to God's commandments for us:

II John 1:4-11 - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. (ESV)

Even "good" things can be turned into idols:

I Timothy 4:4-5 - For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. (ESV)

Romans 1:19-25 - For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie** and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (ESV)

Col 3:5-7 is not saying that "the earth is bad". But on the earth there is stuff that is corrupt, whereas in Holy Jerusalem which is in heaven there is not:

Colossians 3:5-7 - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. (ESV)

The Greek reads more like: Put to death "the members" "upon the earth" sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. So it might be better translated as, while on the earth, put to death sexual immorality, impurity etc. in your members. It's being quite literal about practicing denying ungodliness, and striving for holiness.

We should give up our idols from the heart:

Luke 11:39-41 - And the Lord said to him, Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. (ESV)

Mark 10:21-23 - And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. **Disheartened** by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! (ESV)

As children of promise, walking by faith rather than by sight, we should be desiring a heavenly country, not an earthly one:

Hebrews 11:12-19 - Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (ESV)

II Timothy 4:18 - The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

II Corinthians 5:1-7 - For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. (ESV)

Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain:

I Corinthians 15:53-58 - For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)

Hebrews 6:9-12 - Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (ESV)

Romans 2:6-8 - He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (ESV)

78.4.38 A universal opportunity to accept Jesus

I believe all people are given an opportunity at some stage in one way or another to put their faith in Jesus:

Revelation of John 7:9 - After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from **every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, (ESV)

Song youtube.com: Every Nation Tribe And Tongue Music Video Cada Nacion, Cada Lengua Adoracion

People still have to put their trust in Jesus when the testimony of Jesus comes their way / when Jesus is made apparent to them.

John 12:31-32 - Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (ESV)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (ESV)

John 15:22-24 - If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but **now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also.** If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but **now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.** (ESV)

John 8:47 - Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. (ESV)

But I have confidence that those who are 'of God' will naturally hear Jesus' words and they still have to come to believe/trust in Him:

I John 3:10 - By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

John 8:39-42 - They answered him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, **If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did**, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did. They said to him, We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God. Jesus said to them, **If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (ESV)

John 6:45 - It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— (ESV)

Abraham believed that not even death could prevent receiving the promises that God has given, and that's what our faith should also be like:

Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, Through Isaac shall your offspring be named. He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (ESV)

Hebrews 11:39-40 - And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. (ESV)

We still need to believe to avoid condemnation:

Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but **whoever does not believe will be condemned**. (ESV)

John 12:44 - And Jesus cried out and said, Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. (ESV)

I John 2:23 - **No one who denies the Son has the Father.** Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (ESV)

I John 5:12 - Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (ESV)

Proverbs 8:34-36 - Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death. (ESV)

78.5 Prayer of thanks

- 1 Dear Heavenly Father, Almighty Jehovah God!
- 2 Your will be done.
- 3 We praise Your name! We praise You God! And, Lord Jesus Christ, we praise You also.
- 4 And Holy Spirit, we praise You also!
- 5 Thank You God for Your mercy!
- 6 Thank You Father God for making a way for us to be reconciled with You through Your Son Jesus Chr

- 7 Thank You Jesus for dying on the cross to pay the price for our sins.
 8 Thank You Father God for raising Jesus from the dead!
 9 I believe that You've raised Jesus from dead.
 10 Please help us to continue carrying out Your great commission.
 11 And I'm going to do my best to prepare myself to be holy and blameless for the day of Christ Jesus.
 12 All glory to You, God.
 13 In Jesus Christ's name I pray,
 14 AMEN!!
- 1 Dear Heavenly Father, Jehovah God,
 2 Please forgive, me, LORD.
 3 Have mercy on me, a sinner!
 4 I want to serve You, God.
 5 I don't deserve any of Your grace, LORD.
 6 Thank You, God, for not condemning me, because Jesus has paid the price for my sin.
 7 I believe that. I know it's already paid for.
 8 Nevertheless, I live to serve You, God, and to be conformed into the image of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
 9 In Jesus Christ's name I pray,
 10 AMEN!!

Romans 3:21-26 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

Colossians 2:13-14 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (ESV)

Isaiah 44:22 - I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. (ESV)

Revelation of John 1:5 - and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has **freed us from our sins by his blood** (ESV)

Philippians 1:9-11 - And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

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